



RICHLAND ROD & GUN CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

A 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization
P.O. BOX 337
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON
99352

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.

April 2020, Volume 75 No. 4

Club Website- <https://www.richlandrodandgun.org/>
Club Facebook- www.Facebook.com/RichlandRodandGunClub

2020 Officers

Packy Lackey, President	948-6141	Richard Libby, Treas.	947-0498
Dustin Ney, Vice-President	713-0766	Shannon Lackey, Sec.	948-3320

MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

General Meeting – **NO GENERAL MEETING**

Board Meeting- April 21st, 7:00 PM, Hunter Education Facility at Griggs in Pasco

Newsletter Deadline for May is April 26th, Call Shannon Lackey at 948-3320 or

Email: rrgcsecretary@gmail.com

APRIL: There will be no General Membership Meeting at the Richland Public Library. We might be able to resume in May.

MEMBERSHIP: Carla Boeringa has 4 new memberships pending board approval. Due to our March Board meeting being cancelled we will vote them in at our April Board Meeting. (Premature welcome guys!)

RRGC WEB PAGE: richlandrodandgun.org has had Over 7,828 visits. Greg Boeringa has updated the calendar as well as the homepage and this is your best chance to stay up-to-date on the club functions right now. Photos, news, trips, or tutorials can all be added to the website from our members just email them to: admin@richlandrodandgun.org.

WILD GAME DINNER: The wild game dinner committee had an emergency meeting on Saturday March 14th after the fairgrounds announced that all events were to be postponed immediately due to the Corona Virus. The secretary emailed each member who has a valid email address and the board members all took turns calling each member in our entire club to make sure everyone had the latest news. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS FOR HELPING ME OUT!** ~Shannon Lackey. Marilyn has rescheduled the wild game dinner for Saturday June 27th. Same place and same times apply. We will NOT be printing new tickets so; your original tickets need to be held on to. If you are for any reason unable to make it, we will be giving refunds for tickets. If you lose your ticket, we cannot refund you. There was a lot of prep for the WGD this

month and a huge thank you to all who showed up to pitch in.



(Sausage Grinding and Mixing: Richard Sharp, Dakota Lackey, Marilyn Steele, Harley Lackey, John Prather, Ben Burdett, Jack Pickard, Packy Lackey, Paul Kison, Dale Schielke and not pictured Larry Martin along with Shannon Lackey)



(Pheasant Bites: Packy, Dakota, Marilyn, Harley and new member Alijah Schulz not pictured is Shannon)



(What do you mean we have to postpone NOW! ARE YOU KIDDING?)

WOOD DUCK PROJECT: We have accomplished performing the annual maintenance of all 474 nesting boxes that were available for wood ducks last nesting season. We have replaced some of those boxes that have reached the end of their life with boxes built by youth at the Sportsman Show or Kids Duck Day, and by students at Libby Middle School or Homeschool students. The data collected during the effort shows 56.5 % of boxes were used by wood ducks, 86 boxes were used by Western Screech Owls, cooperative banding with WDFW installed 17 new bands on owls and had 24 owls recaptured having been banded in previous years. There were 186 nest boxes that had successful hatching of ducklings evidenced by us counting 1214 membranes. We believe this number is a very conservative estimate of the actual number of ducklings that were hatched and jumped from the nest boxes. The reason we feel the number is lower than actual is because many membranes are "lost" between the hatch and when the box cleaning is performed months later. Now that all the boxes are ready for hens, we will start to survey boxes for banding efforts. A few selected checks indicate the early nesting activities has started. One box checked on 3-22-20 we found and recaptured a hen sitting on 10 eggs. This hen is a banded hen that has returned to this same box or adjacent boxes since 2016 when she was first banded. Additionally, we had deployed a geolocator on this hen last year on 4-23-19. Her nest hatched out and jumped from the box on 5-19-19. Apparently, the ducklings perished and she re-nested in the same nest box which jumped on 7-15-19. The geolocator has been recovered/removed to download the mini datalogger data and we will report on the migration data after the data is processed and analyzed. We are hopeful that we will recover more of the 16 geolocators that were deployed last spring when we get further into the nesting season.

We have 2 channels on YouTube that we are attempting to stream live video. We have had some upload bandwidth problems which drops off our live stream, requiring us to make a field trip to reset the equipment. You can see the streaming areas on YouTube at: [WOOD DUCK](#)

PROJECT We hope to add cameras and additional channels as we find active nesting hens or screech owls.

The field trip of students from Libby Middle School had to be cancelled because of the virus issues. We are hopeful to possibly make some Facebook LIVE broadcasts of our banding so that students can still be involved. The cooperative banding program with WDFW will be ramping up from mid-April till late May. We had the first recovery of a wood duck hen returning to her nesting box from last year. Hen 1045-30020 with tarsal band Y8 and geolocator #BR250 returned to nest box 412 at Mike Hall's near West Richland bridge. The geolocator was deployed on 4-23-19; first hatch jump on 5-19-19; second hatch jump on 7-15-19.
~Dale Schielke

KOE FISHING EVENT: This year's KOE fishing event has been cancelled. The KOE non-profit people wanted to express their thanks for the volunteers signing up and willing to do these great kids event year after year. The Columbia Park Kid's Fishing Pond will still be planted with trout for fishing opportunities for kids 14 and under (who don't need a fishing license). If you are age 70+ or have a disabled fishing license you are allowed to fish the kids pond as well. If you check the plant reports from last year, it will be about the same time for the plants this year.

NOMINATIONS: This year's Officers and Trustees were elected at the March 3rd General Meeting. Packy Lackey-President; Dustin Ney-Vice President; Rick Libby-Treasurer; Shannon Lackey-Secretary; Carla Boeringa, Greg Boeringa, Ben Burdett, Mike Estes, Todd Hennick, Melissa Huston, Larry Martin, John Merk, Chris Mosher, Dave Myers, Jack Pickard, John Prather, Dale Schielke, Duane Schulz, Richard Sharp and Gene Van Liew as Trustees.

GUZZLERS: Guzzler work 3-5-20 Gene Van Liew, Jim Cartmell and Larry Martin repaired guzzler #308, one of the two rain catchment aprons had blown off and was laying nearby. Installed one new post and reused other three posts. Mounted frames to all eight posts with lag

bolts to add strength. Also, we inspected and cleaned guzzlers 200, 202, 203, 204 & 282. These guzzlers are located southeast of Prosser, Highway 221 and Sellards road area. Jason Fidorra found the badly damaged guzzler and sent us a photo of it.



(Guzzler#308 Jim Cartmell and Gene Van Liew not pictured is Larry Martin)

3-21-20 Guzzler #28 repair, this was a complete overhaul, tank, rain catchment aprons, legs and sheet metal. We worked hard but it was a beautiful day and a great view. Southwest of Kennewick Badger Canyon road area.



(Guzzler #28 Greg Herrin, Blaine Schwartz, Gene Van Liew and Greg's dog Nick, not pictured Larry Martin) Any volunteers? Call Larry Martin at (509)545-9647.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
-Margaret Mead

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next Board Meeting will be April 21st at 7:00 PM, Griggs Hunter Education Room, Pasco. Unless current Corona Virus conditions continue to inhibit our meetings.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING RECAP: Paul Hoffarth our District 4 Fish Biologist and notable club member, came in and let us know which fishing seasons were going to be hot or not. Several forecasts were given and seasonal

estimates looked to somewhat be improving from years past. Paul has spoken several times of the new phone app for fishing regs and wanted to remind everyone that it really simplifies the area you are fishing in. Download the Fish Washington app on your phone or tablet today and check limits and seasons on the body of water that you wish to fish. Emergency rules are still only on the WDFW website and it will say in the app that you can connect to those E-rules. For all those that didn't get a card from Paul his work number is 545-2284 and his email is paul.hoffarth@dfw.wa.gov. North of Falcon meetings have been moved to online platforms this year. You can check the updated info here that also includes his forecasts for the Mid-Columbia: [North of Falcon](#)

VETERANS RECREATION GROUP: There has been considerable interest in the forming of a group of just veterans within the club. The function of the group will be to assist with club projects and to enhance hunting and fishing opportunities for veterans and disabled outdoorsman. If you are interested please call Bill Lambert at: (509)308-3657.



(Veterans Hunt at Barker Ranch: Dave Miller, Michael Crowder and Kirby Hammond after an hour of hunting mallards Feb 1st)

MARCH RAFFLE WINNERS: Can Cooker-Pete Workman; Baitwell Plugs-Mike Estes; Ameristep Turkey Blind- Tom Strycula; Large Guilli Suit- Dave Miller; Strut Turkey Call Pouch-Alec Markel; Browning Dog Vest-Larry Martin; Trout Magnet Kit- Melissa Huston; L.E.M. Jerky Gun- Greg Boeringa; Tackle Backpack- Harley Lackey; Allen Rifle Case-

Gerald Hayes; Kayak Trolley Set-Harley Lackey; Mystery Box- Greg Boeringa; Double Set of Chairs- Duane Schulz.

SPRING HUNTER ED: The spring break hunter ed class was cancelled due to the virus as well as other classes across the state. Please do not forget that there is a one-time deferral program for hunters to hunt without a hunter ed permit for 1 year with a mentor. Hopefully the summer and fall classes will continue as planned.

GAME RECOVERY: No new recoveries at this time. If you would like to help with game recovery contact Chris at 302-5171.

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM: This years Salmon in the Classroom was a success even though it didn't have as much fanfare with the conclusion of the Salmon Summit. Teachers released their classrooms salmon into the Columbia River without students. Thank you, Benton Conservation District for always finding a way to engage the youth. Even if they are on quarantine at home.



(Two different elementary schools releasing their classroom raised salmon into the river and headed for the big blue)

WDFW/WA PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSION AND DNR RELEASE: Announced was the closure of all state campgrounds across Washington to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Campgrounds will remain closed through April 30. The closure includes roofed accommodations like cabins and yurts. Although camping is not allowed, WDFW wildlife areas and water access areas remain open for public use at this time. However, due to theft and increased usage of their restrooms,

visitors should plan to bring their own hand sanitizer and toilet paper.

MCNARY NATIONAL WILDLIFE

REFUGE: The refuge had to close the visitor center due to the COVID-19 but alas; you can still drive out and stay in your car and view the Sandhill Cranes in the fields nearby!

IN SEARCH OF: A member was asking for information on what fish-finder would be best for purchase for his flat bottom boat. Nothing expensive but doable for a small boat in say, the Yakima delta for pike minnow, walleye and bass? Please send your suggestions to the secretary at rrgcsecretary@gmail.com.

SHOUT OUT: To Marilyn Steele who choreographed all of the prep, cooking, packaging and scheduling of rentals for the WGD. We threw a stick in your cog but you just keep rolling! We appreciate all you do! (especially when you cook for us.)

WANTED- The RRGc is in search of a new Chief Hunter Education Instructor. This is for the RRGc classes that are in a traditional classroom setting and are fully funded/backed by the club. If you or someone you know is interested in this position please contact **Richard Sharp at (509)551-6785.**

THROWBACK TO ANOTHER YEAR:

Junior Sportsmen's Club Started-1953
A Junior Sportsmen's Club was organized in 1953 with Dave Jackson as chairman of the youth activities committee. Later Gene Bernard, a teacher, became leader of the Junior Club which was renamed the Fur, Fin and Feather Club. In 1955, John Cowan Junior Pres. of the Fur, Fin and Feather Club was selected as the outstanding Young Conservationist in the state and was Washington's delegate to the Young Outdoor American Conference in Chicago.

HARLEY'S CORNER:



(Would a youth that you know, like to be featured? Have them color one of the many coloring sheets available at [Harley's Corner](#) and turn them in via email or a meeting)

PHOTO OF THE MONTH:

Picture of Larry Martin's grandson Joshua Holland with his six-pound walleye taken March 12 below McNary Dam on the Columbia near the Lucky Tree.



(Photo submitted by: Mike Estes)