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 2015

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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**

APRIL GENERAL MEETING-7 pm, Tuesday April 7, Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland

BOARD MEETING—7 pm, Tuesday, April 21, Hunter Education Facility at Griggs in Pasco

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

**APRIL MEETING:** Richard Sharp

The speakers will be Paul Hoffarth and James Castillo. Paul will discuss the 2015 salmon forecast and resultant fishing opportunities. James will present springtime tactics for largemouth and smallmouth bass. James is a tournament fisherman on the Bassmaster tour.

**MARCH MEETING RECAP:** Frank Scopa

There were a total of 58 people present at the March Meeting. 56 were members of RRGC and 2 were visitors that attended their first meeting. Kirby Hammond brought the meeting to order. The pledge was given and Mr. Hammond then requested that visitors identify themselves in order for them to receive their complimentary raffle tickets. They were also directed to Jennifer Gardner for membership applications. Mr. Hammond informed those present that there would be a 25 year RRGC Belt Buckle presented at the Wild Game Dinner. He asked if anyone was aware of additional candidates. Mr. Hammond then asked the following individuals for information regarding their areas of responsibility.

Dave Myers informed the membership that the pre-WGD food preparation meeting would be held at his house on 10 March at 7:00 PM. He also discussed the varied menu and requested that any additional meat donations be made as soon as possible. He passed around a volunteer list for cooks and kitchen help.

Larry Martin addressed the conservation effort as regarding the guzzlers/cisterns. He needs additional volunteers in order to maintain, refurbish and replace the existing guzzlers. Please contact Larry at 509 521 2554 (Cell) if you are able to volunteer.

Gene Van Liew addressed the upcoming Kids Fishing Pond. There will be a need for volunteers on both Friday, the 8th of May and Saturday, the 9th of May. As per previous years, volunteers are needed for pond duty and assembling fishing rods. Marilyn Steele will be in charge of the RRGC effort.

**ELECTIONS: Mike Estes**

The updated and revised Bylaws were discussed by Mr. Estes. Mr. Estes reminded the membership that they received copies of the Bylaws for review in late January. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Estes also brought up the candidates for RRGC Officers and Board Members. There were no floor nominations. There was a call for a vote by unanimous consent that the Bylaws be accepted as well as the election of the Officers and Board Members. The unanimous consent vote was passed with no objections. The Officers are as follows; President, Mike Estes, Vice-President, Richard Sharp, Treasurer, Rick Libby, and Secretary, Frank Scopa. Trustees of the Board are as follows; Matt Cummings, Jeff Gardner, Jennifer Gardner, Paul Kison, Larry Martin, Sam Morrison, Chris Mosher, Dave Myers, Jack Pickard, John Prather, Dale Schielke, Gene Van Liew, Russ Wyer, and Bob Zylman.

**WDFW REPORT:** Matthew Wilson, WDFW Waterfowl Specialist asked to make a presentation to RRGC regarding waterfowl in the southeastern area of the State. He is interested in increasing habitat which will lead to increased opportunities. He will need volunteers to help with the banding program. He did mention that there is a problem with Urban Canada Geese. They will need to be banded to track their impact to the migrating geese since at this time, local birds are generally shot. Mourning dove limits will be increased from 10 birds per day to 15 birds per day. Mr. Wilson is specifically looking for banding volunteers for juvenile wood ducks. He will provide POC information.

**HUNTERS EDUCATION:**  Ron Ruth reported to the membership that there will be a Hunters Education Class the first week of April. Registration will be through the WDFW website. The class will be from twenty to twenty-five students. Volunteers are needed for both the classes and the range day.

**WOOD DUCK NESTING BOXES:** Dale Schielke reported that as of March 3rd, 309 nesting boxes had been checked. There are 110 more boxes to be checked. There is a 42% Wood Duck usage rate for last year.

**2014 QUALITY TRIP REPORT:** Doug Hitchcock presented his report from the Quality Trip that he won at the WGD last year. Doug’s presentation lasted approximately 45 minutes and covered the combination Burbank duck and goose hunting trips and Puget Sound salmon fishing trip. While the trips were not considered to be of an exotic nature, Doug and Leo Pfeifer both considered the trips to be quality outings and were well enjoyed. Despite the initial approval by the Board for a buffalo hunt, circumstances did not allow that hunt to take place therefore Plan B was invoked. The Burbank goose hunt resulted in a limit by eleven in the morning. The duck hunt was also successful that took place the following day near Paul’s Pond. The Puget Sound fishing trip resulted in seven silvers in a slightly shortened day of fishing. Doug sent in numerous photos of the trip.

**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 should be current as to mailing addresses for the hard copies. There are still 60 members receiving hard copies via the US Mail. New members will be added as the information is received.

**NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP:** Jennifer Gardner continues as the Membership Chair. She can be contacted at 509-981-9366 (Spokane number). New members are Tom Kearns, Ron Moore & Family, Nate Alderliesten, Ron Thornton and Family, Tony Cleaver and Family, Michael Peterson and Family and Steve Moug.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**  Richard Libby presented the Treasurer’s Report for February. The report was approved by the Board of Directors at the Board Meeting held on March 17th.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** April 21st, 7:00PM, Griggs Hunters’ Education Room, Pasco. All RR&GC members are invited to attend.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** April 21, 2015 at the Richland Public Library at 7:00 PM.

**WILD GAME DINNER:** The WGD was held on the 28th of March at the Columbia River Trading and Catering Company Banquet Room at the Shiloh Inn. There were approximately 240 attendees. The event was successful and well received by those that attended. The effort for food preparation started with the individuals that donated elk, venison, pheasant, duck, trout, salmon, walleye, tuna and perch. Dave Myers was the Dinner Committee Chairman. There were 28 cooks and kitchen helpers that started at 8:00 AM Saturday morning and continued through the end of the dinner that ended approximately 9:00 PM. The menu consisted of all wild game entrees, was extremely well prepared and as usual was delicious.

The guest speaker was Rhettman Mullis Jr., PhD. Dr. Mullis spoke on his scientific methods for Bigfoot investigation. Dr. Mullis has joined with other research professionals and scientists in their effort to identify and confirm the existence of Sasquatch.

Per Paul Kison, Raffle/Door Prize Chairman, reported that there were fifty door prizes, twelve raffle prizes and twenty-five silent auction items.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to the following individuals for their support and efforts of our stated goals. The uniqueness of this year’s recipients is that each of the recipients is not a member of RRGC. These distinguished individuals are Paul Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fisheries Biologist, Mike Erickson, WDFW Ringold Fish Hatchery Manager and John Powell, Manager of the Kennewick Sportsman’s Warehouse. Their contributions parallel what it is that we try to accomplish as an organization. Thank you for your support and efforts.

RRGC long time member Doug Schuetze was presented with a RRGC belt buckle for twenty-five years of membership.

The Quality Trip was won by former RRGC President Jeff Gardner. At this time, no plans were announced as to what the Quality Trip will involve.

**UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS AND CLUB GATHERINGS,** Richard Sharp reported that a reservation with the City of Richland, has been made for a gazebo for the annual August RRGC members BBQ in July at Leslie Groves Park. The Mity-Might gathering is scheduled for May 16th at Columbia Park. This is a RRGC members-only event. Fish fry to follow. The Moonlight Catfish Derby is still scheduled but the location has been tentatively established as Columbia Park West near Bateman Island. Further information to follow as the time for the events gets closer.

**WDFW REQUESTS HELP:** Jason Fidorra is looking for 2 volunteers for Monday (April 6) and 2-4 for Tuesday (April 7). The job will involve traveling in WDFW boats to river islands and then substantial hiking on and around the islands in search of nesting Canada Geese. Volunteers should plan to stay for the full day possibly 8am-4pm, especially if they are interested in transport to the sites in the WDFW truck. Interested volunteers can contact him for more details: Jason.Fidorra@dfw.wa.gov or leave a message at the office pho ne of 509-545-2201. It has been a fun survey in the past and he hopes that some RRGC members are interested in being involved again. Jason is located at the WDFW Office, 2620 N. Commercial Ave, Pasco

**WANT ADS:**

Dave Piovesan of Limits Game Farm has announced that he will have pheasant chicks available for purchase starting in mid-May through mid-June. Please call Dave at 509 265 4578 for prices and availability.

**RICHLAND ROD AND GUN CLUB**

 **PO BOX 337**

 **RICHLAND WA 99352-0337**

 **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**