



# RICHLAND ROD & GUN CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

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 2018, Volume 73 No. 4

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)

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### 2018-2019 Officers

Mike Estes, President 582-2212 Richard Libby, Treas. 947-0498  
Richard Sharp, Vice-President 551-6785 Frank Scopa, Sec. 438-9459

### MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

NEXT GENERAL MEETING-7 pm, Tuesday April 3rd, Richland Public Library,  
955 Northgate Drive, Richland

BOARD MEETING—Tuesday, April 17th, 7:00 PM, Hunter Education Facility at Griggs in Pasco

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – April 22nd, Call Frank Scopa at 438-9459 or

Email [rrgsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rrgsecretary@gmail.com)

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**APRIL PROGRAM:** The subject will be the WDFW Fishing Forecast for 2018. The presentation will be Paul Horvath, District 4 Fish Biologist for WDFW. He will also address the new WDFW Fishing App for smart phones.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND

**TRUSTEES:** The election of officers and trustees occurred at the March general membership meeting. The elected officers and trustees comprise the Board of Directors and will serve from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. President – Mike Estes; Vice-President – Richard Sharp; Treasurer – Richard Libby; Secretary – Frank Scopa; Trustees (15) – Carla Boeringa, Greg Boeringa, Ben Burdett, Kirby Hammond, Paul Kison, Larry Martin, John Merk, Chris Mosher, Dave Myers, Jack Pickard,

John Prather, Dale Schielke, Bob Scott, Gene Van Liew, and Russ Wyer.

### WILD GAME DINNER RECAP:

Kudos to dinner chairman Marilyn Steele and the more than 60 volunteers who helped prepare and cook dinner for approximately 300 persons who attended the dinner on March 24. Members, friends, and family met on multiple occasions prior to the day of the dinner to prepare sausages, meat skewers, and veggie trays. Others smoked meats at their homes. Many cooks and helpers were at the Shilo Inn from 8:00 AM to nearly 10:00 PM on the day of the dinner. The result of all this effort was another fun and memorable evening for the attendees. Thanks to everyone who helped out, donated meat, or collected or donated prizes for the event. The extraordinary success was a

result of your cumulative efforts. Our first time dinner guests were amazed at what we do and how well we do it. Keep in mind that well over 250 pounds of game meat, fish and fowl were donated in order for the WGD to occur. Good job everyone.

Our guest speaker, Gary Lewis, provided an innovative presentation. He covered numerous subjects but his talk always returned to the basic theme of the introduction of hunting and fishing to children prior to their teenage years. One of the points he stressed was that as adults, we hunt or fish like we were taught as youth. If someone is not exposed to good hunting and fishing techniques early in life, they will not experience consistent success.



**Gary Lewis**

#### **AWARDS PRESENTED:**

Several awards were presented at this year's Wild Game Dinner, which is a member recognition and appreciation event.

**Don Hand** received a 25 year member belt buckle. Don joined RRGc in 1993.

**Frank Scopa** and **Ron Ruth** were presented Distinguished Service Awards. Frank joined RRGc in 1997, maintained his membership while serving overseas with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, served as a Trustee in 2013-2014 after he returned to the states, and has served as Secretary from 2015 to present. Ron joined the club in 2012, served as a Trustee for 2013-14, Ron became a Hunter Education Instructor shortly after joining and became RRGc's Lead Hunter Education Instructor in 2014 and continues in that role.



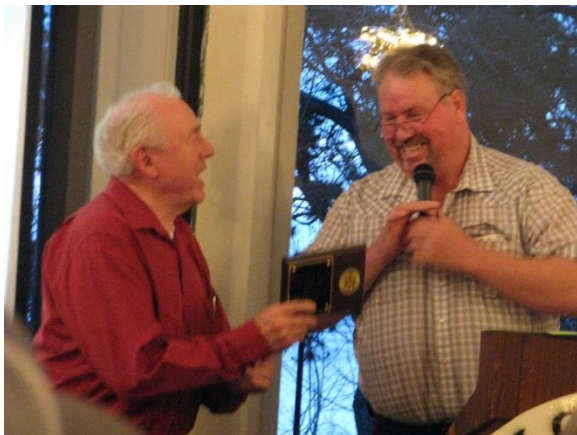
**Ron Ruth**

**Marilyn Steele** was presented our most prestigious award, the **Gardner-Cranston Award**. This is the first time the award has been presented to a member since 2014. Marilyn joined in 2006, was a Trustee in 2009, Vice President in 2010, and President in 2011. She received the Distinguished Service Award in 2011. She has also been the RRGc liaison/coordinator for WDFW Fishing Kids and KOE Kids Fishin' events and for Lunken Lake at the Sportsman's Show. She has prepared food for all the volunteers at all of those events for years and years. Marilyn has been the Wild Game Dinner Chair every year from 2011 to 2018.



**Marilyn Steele**

**Gaylord Pyle** was presented Life membership. Gaylord joined in 1995, served as a Trustee for several years beginning in 1996 until 2013, served as Vice President in 2001 and 2010, and as President in 2002 and 2011. Gaylord received the Distinguished Service Award in 2005 and the Gardner-Cranston Award in 2012. Thanks to the awardees for their numerous years of service to the Club.



**Gaylord Pyle**

**PRIZES FROM THE WGD:**

A recap of the Door Prizes, Raffle Items and the Silent Auction are as follows;

Door Prizes – There were 18 donors. A-1 Shoes, Andrew Templeton, Bill Madison, C.W. “Butch” Welch, Caren Mercer, Central Hose, Central Machine, Gary Lewis, Griggs, John Merk, Lloyd Zinsli, Melissa Houston, Mike and Karen Estes, Paul Kison, Richard Sharp, RDO, Ron’s Food Mart, and Tony.

Raffle Items – There were 14 donors. Bill Madison, Bruce Hewitt, Clearwater NAPA, Dave Hedden, John Prather, Les Schwab Tire, Limits Game Farm, Lloyd Zinsli, Ranch and Home, RDO, RRG & Ashley Reser, RRG, Sportsman’s Warehouse, and Washington Hardware & Furniture.

Silent Auction Items – There were 13 donors. Ben Burdett, Chris Tannahill, Craig Swanson, Dave Myers, Drex Gaunt, Duran Torrez, Marilyn Steele, OXARC, Rattlesnake Mountain Brewing Company, RRG, Sam Morrison, Sunshine Services, and Tony Fisher.

Special Donors – Atomic Anglers Guide Service, Central Hose, Dave Piovesan Limits Game Farm, Fisher’s Catch Outfitters, Flatout Fishing, Going Fishing Guide Service, Griggs, Hedden’s Northwest Sportfishing, Munden’s Rising Son Adventures, RDO, School of Chrome Guide Service, and Sportsman’s Warehouse.

Please support the businesses listed above. They support RRG.

**QUALITY TRIP WINNER:**

The winner selected was Kirby Hammond, former RRG President and current Board Member. The Alternate selected was Regan Hurlbert. In accordance with the Quality Trip Rules, Kirby must provide an approvable plan for review by the Officers and Board Members.

**AN EDITORIAL COMMENT REGARDING THE WILD GAME DINNER:**

Having participated in numerous WGD’s, I continue to be amazed at the generosity of a cadre of members who year after year provide game meat, fish and volunteer their time to prepare a gourmet meal for 300 members and their guests. This effort easily is worth hundreds of hours. Year after year, the same faces show up for food preparation. The preparation to feed 300 people for one meal takes a concerted and directed effort. If you have not volunteered before, please consider the effort for next year. Please take into consideration that there is a burn-out rate of volunteers when the same individuals

provide in excess of tens of hours each year after year. There is a camaraderie that develops within the cadre but the cadre needs new faces. Without new faces, the institutional knowledge is not passed on to a new generation and the future of the Wild Game Dinner could very well be in jeopardy. My two cents worth.

**CONSERVATION /HABITAT:** Larry Martin reported that on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, guzzler #253 was repaired. The guzzler had one rain catching apron torn up by wind, the other apron was still in good shape. Pictured left to right, Bob Dietrich, Gene Van Liew, Larry Noggles, Jerry Bloom, Larry Martin. We had a good time and saw a beautiful view of Mt. Adams and Mr. Rainer on our drive there.



**NEW MEMBERS/MEMBERSHIP:** Carla Boeringa is the Membership Chair. There were seven new membership applications for the month of March. The new members are Ashley Reser (individual), Greg Herrin (individual), Greg Reault (individual), Harley Noethe (family), Monte Kelsey (family), and William Watson (family). Please welcome them at the April 3rd General Membership Meeting. Our current membership stands at 181 individual and family memberships as of the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2018.

Please keep in mind that without new membership and specifically younger members, RRG will be in decline. It is has become time for the younger members to take over leadership positions. This can be done through involvement and participation in Board and committee activities. RRG needs more younger and actively involved members.

**HUNTERS EDUCATION:** Ron Ruth

reported to the Executive Board that the next Hunters Education Class would be during the School Spring Break of 2018. Please contact Ron at 509 737 7350 if you are interested in volunteering and/or becoming a state certified instructor. Presently there are three classes scheduled for 2018. The first class will start on April 2<sup>nd</sup> as a daytime class. The next class will start the 25<sup>th</sup> of June as a daytime class. The last class will start 10<sup>th</sup> of September as a night time class. Online enrollment for the April class is currently underway.

**KIDS OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE:** The youth fishing event at Columbia Park Pond (also known as the Family Fishing Pond) will start on Friday evening, April 20<sup>th</sup> for the special needs clientele. The special needs clientele event will start at approximately 4:00PM until dark. We will need volunteers for both Friday evening and all day Saturday. Marilyn Steele will have additional information at the general meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. Gene Van Liew has distributed approximately 1,200 fishing rods to club members for assembly. Gene will give direction as to the date and time for turning them in at the Park.

**INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS:** Ron Ruth reported that RRG, in conjunction with the Tri-Cities Metallic Shooting Association will present an introduction to firearms class for anyone over the age of 18 years. The date of the class will be the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. There will be a limit of 20 students. The class will consist of two parts. The first part will be classroom time for the introduction as to firearms types and safe handling. The second part will be a hands-on demonstration of shooting the different firearms at the Tri-Cities Metallic Silhouette Association range located on Kaholtus Highway north of Pasco. For further information and registration please contact Ron Ruth at 509 737-7350. RRG will provide the classroom instruction. TCMSA personnel will provide the range instruction. There is no fee associated with this effort.

**GAME RECOVERY:**

There was no game recovery for the month of March. If you are able to assist in game

recovery, please contact Chris Mosher at 509 302 5171.

**SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM:** At the present time, the hatched salmon eggs are transitioning from sack fry to smolt. Gene expects that the first feeding of the fry will take place during the first week of April. The Salmon Summit is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the east boat launch in Columbia Park. Gene Van Liew will be asking for volunteers at the April general meeting. The times at the boat ramp adjacent the blue bridge, will be from approximately 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM both mornings.

**BULLETIN HELP – EMAIL vs. USPS:** If you are receiving this bulletin via U.S. Mail and you have an email account, please send an e-mail to [rrgcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rrgcsecretary@gmail.com). You will get quicker delivery and save us money.

**501(C)(3) STATUS:** Mike Estes and Rick Libby report that all information and fees have been submitted to the IRS for review. The IRS has acknowledged receipt of our application. We now wait for review and approval. This effort has been in process for approximately four years. Hopefully the next step will be approval by IRS.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Mike Estes has established a point of contact at the University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources. This is to ensure that students are made aware of the three \$1,000 scholarships that RRGc will award for the Fall of 2018. The deadline for the applications is the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. Student majors must be related to natural resources in order to be considered.

**RRGC WEB PAGE:** Russ Wyer and Greg Boeringa are in the process of developing a webpage for RRGc. It is not complete but is a current work in progress. Thank you gentlemen.

**2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT:**  
(The next time this much info needs to be reported, we will utilize a link to our webpage.)

The Legislature adjourned its 60-day session on schedule March 8. Lawmakers passed supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets and approved the 2017-19 capital budget, which they weren't able to agree on during last year's 193-day session.

This report summarizes the highlights of the Legislature's actions related to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department):

Early in the session, the Legislature developed a policy fix for the Hirst water availability issue, which created gridlock and stalled passage of the capital budget last year. The legislative fix ([SB 6091](#)) allows the development of new wells in areas with watershed plans in place, limits water withdrawals, and establishes a mitigation program, which will fund \$300 million in watershed restoration and enhancement work over the next 15 years. Habitat Program staff worked hard to ensure that the Department will play a significant role in determining appropriate mitigation projects under this new framework. The Legislature provided the Department \$580,000 to carry out its responsibilities under the legislation.

With the Hirst issue resolved, the Legislature was able to pass the 2017-19 capital budget, which provided the Department more than \$57 million for new projects and an additional \$17 million in grants and federal/local authority. It includes \$5 million for forest health and prescribed fire work; over \$20 million for hatchery infrastructure improvements; \$6 million for habitat restoration work; and \$11 million for minor works projects at Department facilities throughout the state. In addition, the Legislature passed a 2018 supplemental capital budget adding another \$3 million to repair and replace fire damaged facilities at the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area; begin design to relocate the Hurd Creek Hatchery; and complete several minor projects in support of southern resident killer whale recovery.

Because the Legislature spent the first couple weeks of session on Hirst and the capital budget, less time was available for other issues, and a large number of bills died before the first policy

cutoff. Unfortunately, one of the Department's bills which focused on hunter and angler recruitment failed to advance.

However, another of the Department's request bill did win legislative approval. [HB 2649](#), which will streamline rules for complying with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and reduce barriers for hunters and fishers with disabilities, was approved unanimously by the House and Senate. When lawmakers adjourned, it required only the Governor's signature to become law.

Also of note was the Department's proposed commercial fee bill ([SB 6317](#)) which adjusted non-resident commercial fishing fees and reduced resident fishing guide rates. The Legislature amended the original bill to add a reduction in the fee for small fish dealers and to expand the ceremonial and subsistence fishing rights for Wanapum tribal members to all food fish, instead of just salmon.

#### Fisheries- and Habitat-Related Legislation and Budget Items

**Carbon Tax:** After much deliberation, the Legislature did not approve a carbon tax this session. Supporters of the tax are expected to propose an initiative for the statewide election ballot this fall.

**Atlantic Salmon Net Pens:** The Legislature spent many hours in committee and on the floor debating the regulatory framework around net pen aquaculture in Washington State. In the end, lawmakers passed HB 2957 to phase out all commercial net pen aquaculture facilities that raise non-native species, such as Atlantic salmon. The bill provides funding (\$65,000) for the Department to work with Ecology to update the state guidance on net pen aquaculture and assist with increased assessments of structural integrity at existing facilities until they are phased out in 2022.

#### **Southern Resident Killer Whale**

**Recovery:** Lawmakers did not approve proposed legislation on killer whale recovery, which would have further regulated the speed of marine vessels and prevented vessels from disturbing these endangered marine mammals. However, the operating budget

provided significant funding for increased enforcement patrols to reduce marine vessel noise around whales (\$548,000), increased Chinook production to supplement their prey base (\$1.6 million), increased juvenile salmon survival through new fish screens (\$30,000), and funding for the facilitation of a taskforce to identify early actions necessary to recover these iconic species (\$115,000).

**Fish Health and Disease:** The Legislature provided \$500,000 for the Department to hire an additional veterinarian and epidemiologist to ensure compliance with new federal and state laws related to the veterinarian licensure and environmental health, which require additional on-site coverage at the state's 81 hatchery facilities.

**Puget Sound Steelhead Early Marine Survival:** The Legislature provided \$790,000 for the last phase of the Puget Sound Steelhead Early Marine Survival Study. This funding will allow the Department to wrap up research into the key limiting factors for steelhead survival in the Puget Sound and begin looking into appropriate management actions to address them.

**Halibut:** The Legislature passed a bill ([SB 6127](#)) to establish a \$5 halibut catch record card for anglers who buy an annual halibut license. Revenue from the new fee will be used to increase data on angler effort and harvest.

**Oil Transport Safety:** The Legislature passed [SB 6269](#), which raised the oil spill response tax (\$0.01 per barrel) and the oil spill administration tax (\$0.04 per barrel). The bill requires an update to contingency plans, a large-scale oil spill drill every three years and the establishment of a Salish Sea water forum. The Legislature also provided a one-time fund shift of \$4.7 million from the Oil Spill Prevention Account to the Oil Spill Response Account which will support the Department's oil spill response team.

#### Lands & Wildlife Management Related Legislation and Budget Items

Wildlife Trafficking: The Legislature provided \$300,000 for the Department to increase investigation and enforcement efforts to combat illegal wildlife trafficking. This funding will enable the agency to implement Initiative 1401, which was approved by 70 percent of Washington voters in 2015 to outlaw the possession and trade of critically endangered wildlife species.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes: The Legislature provided \$22,000 to increase payments to Adams, Asotin, and Lincoln counties whose PILT payments were reduced from the last several year's of legislative policy that capped the Department's PILT payments.

Discover Pass: After much debate on the issue, the Legislature did not pass [HB 2652](#), which would have implemented the first phase of recommendations from the Ruckleshaus assessment on recreational access to state managed recreation lands. The Legislature instead provided \$75,000 for the Department, State Parks, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Office of Financial Management to explore the fiscal and economic effects of the three recommendations outlined in the Ruckleshaus report.

Wildlife Transfer Notice: The Legislature passed [HB 2276](#) to expand public notice requirements when the Department proposes to translocate big game animals or certain carnivores for population enhancement. Wildlife Program staff worked closely with the bill sponsors to ensure this will complement current outreach efforts.

Wolf Translocation: The Legislature did not pass [HB 2771](#), which would have directed the Department to initiate the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process to review the use of translocation as a tool for managing wolves. However, lawmakers approved funding (\$183,000) to enable the Department to begin that process in the coming year, with a status report due on December 31, 2019.

Good Neighbor Authority: The Legislature passed a bill ([SB 6211](#)) to establish a dedicated

account for DNR and the Department to deposit federal funds from Good Neighbor Agreements we develop with federal partner agencies. This will allow greater flexibility in land management and will allow the Department to receive additional federal dollars for land management activities.

#### Human Resources, Administration, and Information Technology-Related Budget and Legislation

Enforcement Records Management: The Legislature provided \$1.4 million to update the Department's outdated enforcement records management system to meet heightened security standards.

Network Infrastructure: The Legislature also provided \$2.5 million for the Department to begin rebuilding the aging IT Network.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** The next Board Meeting will be April 17th at 7:00 PM, Griggs Hunters' Education Room, Pasco. All RR&GC members are invited to attend.

**WILD GAME RECIPES:** It has been requested that members forward their favorite wild game recipe for inclusion in our newsletter and website for sharing.

**GENERAL MEETING RAFFLES:** Given that the State of Washington requires a Gaming License for raffles, RRGc cannot continue our previous practice of conducting raffles at the General Meetings. It was decided that in order to fully comply with the State of Washington requirements, RRGc will apply at a later date for the license upon approval of our 501(c)(3) status by IRS. That's the reason why we have not had a raffle for a number of months. Please bear with us.

However, we are now conducting Door Prize Drawings at the general meetings. There were 12 prizes won at the March General Meeting. The items and winners were as follows; 1. 12 gauge Turkey Shells/Target – Dale Williams, 2. 12 Gauge Shotgun Cleaning Kit – Blake Williams, 3. Insect Repel/Target – Richard Sharp, 4. Bass Tackle Kit – Reagan Hurlburt, 5. Snake Bite Kit – Greg Boeringa, 6. Mity Mite

Fishing Rod – Dave Myers, 7. A-Frame Turkey Call – Miles Fisher, 8. Gun Lock/Child Safe – Miles Fisher, 9. Leatherman Knife/Tool – Gene Van Liew, 10. Multi-Meter – Leo Pfeifer, 11. Wood Box Call – Ron Ruth, 12. Mystery Box (NWTf Knife) – Phil Morton.

**WOOD DUCK BOXES:** Dale Schielke reported that as of the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 98% of wood duck boxes had been checked. This amounts to approximately 442 boxes that have been checked and cleaned for the spring hatch. Dale has made several presentations for the Wood Duck Boxes to Libby Middle School students as well as home schooled students. The presentation consists of a classroom lecture, hands on building of several boxes and the installation of the boxes in the field.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RRGC received the new Traeger Smoker a couple of weeks ago. It was christened during the sausage preparation effort at John Prather’s shop. It was also utilized for the WGD. It is not for loan or to borrow at this time. A decision regarding its use is being developed by the Board.



**RICHLAND ROD AND GUN CLUB  
PO BOX 337RICHLAND, WA 99352**

**WANT ADS AND SHOUT-OUTS:**

Rick Libby has the following items for sale. Please contact Rick at 509 627 5461.

1. Minn Kota Power Drive with Riptide corded Foot Pedal and Wireless hand held Remote.
2. 55lb Thrust with 54” shaft 12V. Has I Pilot kit. - \$ 300
3. Pro Charging System Pro SE 10 Amp Charger - \$70
4. Yandina Combiner 100 Battery Combiner - Charge on the go - \$30
5. LOWRANCE CMS-525C DF Fish Finder/Chart Plotter/GPS Complete unit, all cables, Transducer, manual. \$100

**Thanks to all who volunteered their time and game for an incredible Wild Game Dinner. Your efforts are very much appreciated.**

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH:**

No photos were submitted for the month.



