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.

December 2026, Volume 81 No. 12
Club Website- www.richlandrodandgun.org
Club Facebook- www.Facebook.com/RichlandRodandGunClub

2026/2027 Officers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Richard Sharp	Owen Matson	Mike Estes	Ron Moore
(509) 551-6785	(509) 861-9204	(509) 551-9066	(509) 521-4528

MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

Next General Meeting – December 1, 6:30 PM at Richland Public Library
Next Board Meeting- December 15, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room
January Newsletter Contribution Deadline is December 22.
Email: admin@richlandrodandgun.org

December 1 General Meeting
6:30pm at the Richland Public Library

We have arrived at that time of year where water temperatures will be their coldest for the next few months. To many fishermen in our area that means renewed opportunities to pursue various species in our local waters. Last month we learned techniques for fall walleye fishing. Our presenter this month is Captain Leon Stafford, owner of Riverlife Guide Service. Leon will discuss tactics and techniques for late fall and winter Steelhead trout fishing on the Snake River. Steelhead can be elusive so this is a great opportunity to learn from an experienced guide who knows where and how to catch them.

If you are new to Steelhead fishing, or possibly new to fishing for any particular species, my suggestion is that you wait to buy your gear until after you learn the basics. You can spend a lot of money only to learn that what you bought might not be what you need to fish where and how you might end up fishing. Fish with a guide or learn from a guide first.

Donations Received

Our club is very fortunate to have received several donations this month. We appreciate the individuals and organizations who provide financial support to us so that our projects and activities can be successful and continue to grow.

Steve Allen of Richland donated various hunting and fishing gear on November 3. Some of the items were used as raffle prizes at our general membership meeting that evening. A new Camp Chef stove and a used compound bow will be reserved to be used as prizes as the Wild Game Dinner in March. Empty donated fishing tackle boxes will be filled with tackle and awarded to kids who catch tagged fish at Lunker Lake at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen's Show in January. Many thanks to Steve for thinking of us for this donation.

The members of the Garden Genies garden club have been strong supporters of our Wood Duck Nest Box and Guzzler projects for the last several years. Their most recent donations are $500 to the Wood Duck Nest Box project and $1,000 to the Guzzler project. Dale and Larry are very appreciative of the financial support which is especially important since the State of Washington ended its ALEA Grant Program concurrent with Governor Ferguson taking office. Thank you, ladies!

A donation received a few years ago required some time to develop to its full potential, as explained in the write up printed below that was authored by our President, Richard Sharp. The final disposition of the donation this month totaled $1,100 in cash revenue to RRGC. Thank you to Jeff Lettau for the donation and to Richard for storing the rods and reels and transitioning them to their new owners.

The Power of a Donation – Richard Sharp

Several years past a good friend, Jeff Lettau, approached me and inquired if I might be interested in accepting his late father's substantial antique fly-fishing collection in that it might be of use to others or perhaps the Richland Rod and Gun Club. I accepted the offer and found out that the number of rods and reels was indeed substantial! In all there were dozens of older flyfishing rods and boxes of antique reels containing both spinning and fly-fishing equipment, some of which I have never heard of or even envisioned! Over the course of time the fly rods were used as raffle prizes at monthly RRGC meetings after being paired with a working reel. Some reels were given to be the Columbia Basin Fly Casters to be used as aids during the club's fly-fishing classes. Still about 100 reels of questionable functionality remained and I have stored them for several years. Wondering what might be done with them, I contacted a friend who operates Gaudy Gals on Main, an antique and curios shop in Waitsburg WA. and asked her to place a few reels out for any interested customers. I was contacted a few weeks later and told that a gentleman came in and bought the whole box they had put out. Our share of the proceeds from that sale was $100. The shop owner informed me that she had given my phone number to the buyer in case there were other reels for sale. A few days later I was contacted by Mike Rude, a local collector, who was very interested in everything that was left. Mike's passion is collecting and refurbishing old fishing gear. Mike purchased all the remaining reels for $1,000. Who

could guess that the old rods and reels could represent such a substantial donation to the RRGC! These funds will be used for the many projects the RRGC supports for the benefit of knowledge and instruction in the outdoors for today's youth. Never underestimate the power of your donation!

Thank You Received

Dale Schielke and Larry Martin are frequent participants in elementary and middle school Science and STEAM nights with their wood duck and guzzler displays. They participated in Tapteal Elementary's STEAM Night on October 16 and in the Chief Joseph Middle School Science Night on November 5. RRGC recently received a thank you card from Tapteal that reads "Thank you for being involved in our Tapteal STEAM Night. The kids had an amazing time and we couldn't have made it happen without your support." Thank you, Larry and Dale, for helping educate the kids about things that are going on in the great outdoors.

Wild Game Dinner Planning

Another reminder to everyone that the kickoff planning meeting for the March 20, 2027 Wild Game dinner will be at **5:30pm on Friday, January 8, 2027** at Marilyn Steele's home. We will review what meat has been donated, discuss possible new recipes to try, estimate how many cooks will be needed and who might take the lead on preparing the various dishes, and so on. Marilyn will provide dinner those who attend. Dates will be set for other sessions like meat grinding and sausage stuffing. The dinner doesn't just happen. It is the culmination of a lot of effort by a team of dedicated volunteers. Do not be shy if you haven't participated previously. No experience is required. This is one of the best opportunities to get to know other RRGC members while volunteering beside them and providing your input to the process. Please let Marilyn know if you will be coming so she can plan accordingly.

If you have been successful harvesting fish and game this year, please consider donating a portion of your harvest for the dinner. We thank those who have already donated meat but we still need more! We have about three months to collect the meat and prizes we will need to hold another successful event on April 20. Fish, waterfowl, and big game are all needed. Rather than just being an attendee at the Wild Game Dinner, please consider being a participant in the event by donating meat, donating or soliciting prizes, or by volunteering to help with other aspects of the dinner.

We have storage space for donated meat and prizes so you don't need to store items in your freezer or garage until next spring. Each package of meat must be tagged with the donor's name, WILD ID number, species and cut of meat. Ground meat cannot be accepted due to health safety concerns but we can accept clean trim meat that is suitable for making into ground meat.

Please contact John Prather (509-521-1593) for more information about meat and prize donations or Marilyn Steele (509-392-2128) about helping with the dinner preparations.

John can provide you copies of our prize donation solicitation letter if you know businesses that you are willing to contact about providing prizes for the dinner.

2027 Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show

RRGC will once again be running the Kids' Pellet Range and Lunker Lake, the kids' fishing pond, at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show at the HAPO Center in Pasco **on January 29, 30, and 31, 2027**. Fishing pond set up will be on Thursday morning, January 28. It takes a lot of volunteers to man all of the shifts over the duration of the show. There will be a sign-up list at the December 1 meeting so please consult your calendar before the meeting and then sign up for as many shifts as you are willing and able to help. If you have participated before, you know how much fun it is to assist the kids and see their reactions to a first ever caught fish or a well shot target.

Ron Ruth will again be our lead for the Pellet Range. Richard Sharp currently has the lead for Lunker Lake but would happily delegate the lead responsibilities to someone else who is willing. Contact Ron (509-737-7350) or Richard (509-551-6785) to volunteer your assistance.

Preparation for KOE Fishing Events

Ten RRGC volunteers gathered at John Prather's shop on November 21 to repair inoperable fishing reels that were tangled and mangled during last year's KOE fishing events. More than 80 reels were restored to operation and will be used at the KOE events on **April 16 and 17, 2027** at Columbia Park Pond. Several PVC fishing rod racks were also constructed during the work session to store rods ready for pick up by fishermen at the events.







2027 Hunter Education Pheasant Hunt

Chief Instructor Ron Ruth has announced that the annual pheasant hunt for students who pass the Hunter Education classes taught by the RRGC instructor team will be on Saturday, **February 20, 2027** at Limits Game Farm near Mesa. Ron reported that WDFW secured a grant this year to provide pheasants for various special hunts and will provide 100 birds for our hunt. If you would like to assist with the hunt as a mentor or as a dog handler (if you have a pointing hunting dog), please contact Ron (509-737-7350) to volunteer.

Guzzler Repair

Larry Martin, Bill Watson, and Jerry Bloom repaired Guzzler 246 off of Highway 260 east of Connell on November 9. The team rebuilt the damaged apron frame and replaced the damaged apron legs. They reinstalled the well-used perching post shown in the photo (see below) back a few feet from the guzzler in the hope that it is appreciated by whatever has been using it.

Larry says Guzzler 118 which is located north of Prosser is scheduled for repair on **December 4**. The repair team for Guzzler 118 will include members from RRGC and

Pheasants Forever. Please contact Larry (509-521-2554) if you would like to lend a hand on upcoming guzzler repairs.





<u>What Can You Believe These Days?</u>

Tim Irvin recently returned from an over-seas fishing trip and shared a photo of a nice, bright King Tut salmon that he caught. We can't easily identify the specific location where he caught the salmon but we know that it was in Egypt from the pyramids in the background in the photo. Who even knew that there are salmon in Egypt?



The old adage "Don't believe everything you hear and only half of what you see" may need to be updated now that that AI has been thrust upon us. How much of what we see and hear these days is partially or, perhaps, totally fake? I received a call from my teen-age grandson a few weeks ago. He lives in Ohio but the call originated in Idaho. I didn't send any money. Thanks to Tim for sharing the photo and reminding us that not everything may be as it appears. I'm not sure whether a stocking cap is really needed to keep your ears warm when traveling in Egypt.

Safe Shooting Sports for Youth at RMSF

Dave McNeal reports that the 2027 Youth .22 rimfire matches at the Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility will be revised based on knowledge gained over two years of match action. Several things have been learned.

We attract shooters with varying levels of experience. Some participants have never previously touched a firearm. Some have had some firearms safety and/or marksmanship training. Others are dead-eye sharpshooters with excellent safety habits. And everything in between.

Some of our shooters are avid competitors. Some of our shooters are intent on improving their personal marksmanship skills. Some prefer to burn powder and hit something. Some shooters or their families can only afford to spend an hour at the range; others could spend several hours.

Therefore: We plan to devise Hybrid Smallbore/Rimfire Events that allow the attendees to participate in activities that are best suited to their situations and preferences. Beginners will be given basic instruction about safety, sighting and shooting. Intermediates will have the opportunity to fire on paper or steel targets at 25, 50 or 100 yards without scorekeeping. Competitors will fire either a Smallbore 25/50 Match or a Rimfire Sporter Match under conditions specified in a Match Description.

These events will be on second Saturdays and fourth Sundays of April through October, and we'll divide up the shooting positions to allow all elements of the event proceed contemporaneously on the same range. (We may need more RSOs to make this happen.)

Youth under age 18 shoot for free and must be accompanied by an adult
Loaner guns and ammunition are available for the .22 events. You can learn more about these events at:
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586545546901&sk=about
If you want to be included on our mailing list email: TCSAYOUTH@TCSA.INFO

Photo of the Month

There were three photo contest entries this month. Charles Krause submitted a photo of himself with a male antelope harvested near Buffalo, Wyoming on October 2. Monte Kelsey submitted a photo of himself with a 6x6 bull elk that Monte harvested on October 29 in the Prescott unit. Monte's photo was taken by Jon Halverson. John Prather submitted a photo of himself with a true spike bull elk that John harvested on November 2 in the Prescott unit. John's photo was taken by Todd Woollum. Congratulations to the hunters! Monte's photo was selected as the winner.

Please submit some of your favorite photos so we can see how you have been enjoying your time outdoors. Submit entries to rrgcsecretary@gmail.com no later than the day preceding the monthly Board meeting.







Update your contact information!

If you have changed your address, your phone number, or your email address please use this link and scroll to the bottom of the page where it says "Update My Contact Information".

Richland volunteer opportunities for members (richlandrodandgun.org)

Get involved in one of our Committees:
Salmon in the Classroom: Mike Estes - estesm34@gmail.com
Wood Ducks: Dale Schielke – dahlialou@msn.com
KOE Kids Fishing Day: Marilyn Steele – momhoops46@gmail.com
Hunter Education: Ron Ruth or John Prather – RonRuth.HunterEd@gmail.com, or cowboy_jp82@msn.com
Guzzlers: Larry Martin - larry49martin@gmail.com
Youth Conservation Camp: Larry Martin - larry49martin@gmail.com
Membership: Maija Greer – richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com
Scholarship: Mike Estes - estesm34@gmail.com
Website: Greg Boeringa – admin@richlandrodandgun.org
Wild Game Dinner: Marilyn Steele – momhoops46@gmail.com

RRGC Club Upcoming Activities
Next General Membership Meeting – December 1 at 6:30pm, Richland Public Library
Next Board of Directors Meeting – December 15 at 7:00pm, Grigg's in Pasco
2027 Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show – January 29-31, HAPO Center in Pasco
2027 Wild Game Dinner – March 20, Benton County Fairgrounds Building #4
KOE Fishing Rod Assembly – April 3 at 9:00am, Grigg's Dept. Store HE room
KOE Special Needs Fishing – April 16 from 11:00am to 5:00pm, Columbia Park Pond
KOE Kids Fishing – April 17 from 7:00am to 4:30pm, Columbia Park Pond

Note from the Secretary: If you have suggestions for improving the monthly newsletter, please send an email to rrgcsecretary@gmail.com Too short, too long, more or fewer photos, ideas for articles, etc. Mike will respond to any comments or suggestions received.