



RIGHLAND ROD & GUN CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

P. O. BOX 337
RIGHLAND, 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.

October 2016, Volume 71 No. 10

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

Club Facebook Site – www.Facebook.com/RichlandrodandGunClub

Northwest Game Recipes Web Site – www.northwestgamerecipes.com

2016-2017 Officers

Richard Sharp, President	586-4790	Richard Libby, Treas.	947-0498
Ben Burdett, Vice-President	582-0103	Frank Scopa, Sec.	375-4748

MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

NEXT GENERAL MEETING-7 pm, Tuesday October 4th, Richland Public Library,
955 Northgate Drive, Richland

BOARD MEETING—Tuesday, October 18th, 7:00 PM, Hunter Education Facility at Grigg's in Pasco

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – October 20th, Call Frank Scopa at 375-4748 or

Email rgcsecretary@gmail.com

OCTOBER PROGRAM: If you plan to hunt big game, waterfowl, or upland birds in eastern Washington this fall, don't miss this opportunity to hear the hunting forecast from Jason Fidorra, WDFW District 4 Wildlife Biologist, at the **October 4** general membership meeting. Mike Livingston, WDFW Region 3 Director, will also be present to update us on the status of the "Washington's Wild Future" initiative that was initiated last year, share feedback already received from sportspersons, and to solicit your input on decisions yet to be made by WDFW.

McNARY NWR BLIND PREPARATION: McNary is continuing the process started last year of replacing/installing new waterfowl hunting blinds. Volunteers are needed to help with cutting brush/reeds and weaving them into the new blinds on the Fee Hunting Area and the Wallula Unit. Volunteer day is Saturday,

October 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the McNary Headquarters (Hunter Check Station). Bring boots and gloves. It's a great way to do a little scouting at the same time.

RINGOLD SPRINGS FISH HATCHERY: Want to catch 100 or more salmon (plus a few steelhead) in a day? Volunteers are needed to assist WDFD hatchery staff man the Ringold Hatchery fish trap. Several volunteers are needed for **each Tuesday in October and November**. Duties include catching fish in the trap so they can be sexed, counted, then vital data collected/recorded prior to being iced down in bins for transport to the processor. The surplus fish are processed into salmon burgers for distribution to Food Banks. Activities will start about 8:30 am and last for 3 to 4 hours, depending upon the number of fish in the trap. The work is fairly strenuous, but lots of

fun tailing fish and tossing them into bins. Waders and rain suits are worn to help staying dry but WDFW will provide them. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Dale Schielke at 375-0183. Dale will coordinate getting volunteers registered with WDFW and recording volunteer hours.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP: Judging from the 93 members and guests in attendance at the September 6 meeting, there are a lot of people who plan to chase salmon on the river this fall. Good luck to each of you! Jerry Reyes of Flatout Fishing discussed proven techniques for putting fish in the boat including trolling Brad's Super Baits and Cut Plugs; back trolling Jet Diver and eggs; switching out to Kwikfish or Mag Lips; and hover fishing. Hover fishing is a way to vertical fish when floating weeds make it difficult to pull plugs and perhaps there isn't enough current to back troll Jet Divers. Jerry covered rod lengths, reels, line type and weight, leader lengths, weights, flashers, and how to assemble the rigs. He discussed troll speed (the throb of the rod will tell you whether to speed up or slow down) and why fish frequently come unhooked when the rod is removed from the rod holder when trolling plugs. Jerry's advice is to leave the rod in the holder until the fish turns, which will result in a better hook up. Hitting the fish too soon can jerk the hook out of his mouth. Finally, it is always better for the drag to be too loose than too tight. Too tight and the fish is gone but a loose drag can be tightened while fighting the fish or the reel can be thumbed to increase tension. Jerry's final tip is if you are adding scents to baits, prepare the bait the night before fishing to give the scents and flavors time to blend.

RRGC sent seven kids to Youth Conservation Camp this year. Adrian Villanueva shared his favorite memories from the week-long camp. This is Adrian's second year as a camper. Matt Cummings provided an outstanding selection of raffle prizes for the meeting including three rods and reels donated by Traveland RV. Dale Schielke donated a trailer hitch mount clay target thrower and Matt donated a quart of his cured Chinook salmon eggs. Prize winners were Ben Burdett, Kevin Lochridge, Mike Pearson,

Clarence Corriveau, Paul Kison (twice!), Mike Becker, Amelia Hurlbert, Clifton Bauman, Ron Ciola, Steve Antonissen, and Andrew Wolf.

NEW MEMBERS: Please join us in welcoming Nathan Phillips and Family and Jason Young and Family, all of Kennewick. We look forward to seeing the dads and their families at the meetings and Club events.

HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS – Ron Ruth

The last hunter education class for 2016 was held the week of September 12. This was a night class held at Griggs Dept. Store in Pasco, WA. There was an enrollment of 25 students with 3 no-shows, and 20 out of 22 passed the course. The class was well supported by both instructors and volunteers throughout the class. Instructors included Steve Gains, Howard Gardner, Ben Burdett, Dave Myers, Don Board, Craig Lewis, Dr. Margulies, Gary Scriven, J. Horn and C. Myers with WDFW, and myself, Ron Ruth. Volunteers included Dale Schielke, Jack Pickard, Paul Kison, Joe Haverkemp, John Prather, Mark Kimmell, and Philip Bartkus. Thanks to all the instructors and volunteers who helped with this effort.

The Hunter Education youth pheasant hunt is currently scheduled for February 18, 2017. WDFW has informed RRCG that WDFW will be providing all the birds for the hunt. This event will be coordinated between Limits Game Farm, Pheasants Forever, WDFW, and RRCG. We are planning on an enrollment of 25 students for the event from previous Hunter Education classes.

CONSERVATION/HABITAT- Larry Martin

A work party comprised of Gene VanLiew, Ron Ruth, Dave Gerdes, Steve Antonissen, and Larry Martin completely overhauled a water cistern, Guzzler #4, at McBee Grade south of Benton City of September 22. This guzzler was damaged by a recent fire. The team installed a replacement water basin and all new rain catchment aprons and installed metal support posts for the cover. It was a lot of dirty work but fun (much shovel work moving dirt), luckily we were able to drive very close to the guzzler. Also helping on other days gathering parts and

assembling frames was Don Smith. A total of 52.5 man hours was expended on this repair.

DONATIONS FOR WILD GAME DINNER:

Attention deer, elk, duck, goose, and upland bird hunters. Also, walleye, bass, and salmon fishermen. Whether you shot it or caught it, we need your meat donations for the 2017 Wild Game Dinner. When you are successful on your outings, please consider sharing a portion of your bounty for the WGD. John Prather has graciously volunteered his freezers for storage of donated meat. Frozen meat can be transferred to John at any general membership or Board meeting or you can call John to make other arrangements. Each donation should be tagged with the following information: donor's name, WILD ID number, species and cut of meat, plus the date taken. No ground meat, please, due to the risk of contamination. John can be reached at (509) 582-2482. Also, please let John know if you are willing to help collect door prize donations for the WGD or if you know of a business that we should solicit for a prize. The WGD is a success each year only because of the generosity of RRG members!

YAKIMA RIVER BASS HARVEST:

WDFW Region 3 staff estimate that in excess of 20,000 smallmouth bass and 700 channel catfish were harvested between May 1 and June 15, 2016 on the lower Yakima River from the Hwy. 240 Bridge in Richland (RM 2.1) to the Grant Avenue Bridge in Prosser (RM 47.0). The estimate is based on data collected from anglers during the spring Chinook salmon season on the lower Yakima River where there was a daily limit of two chinook including one hatchery adult chinook. Wild adult chinook must be released.

The creel survey was funded by the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) paid by fishermen to monitor the salmon fishery, but the creel technician does not limit his monitoring to only salmon. Fishing effort and catch data is collected on all species during that time period.

WDFW staff interviewed 52 anglers fishing for salmon in the lower Yakima River with one

hatchery jack harvested and one wild jack released. Based on the proportion of effort sampled there were an estimated 553 angler trips for spring chinook in the lower river during the six week period with a harvest of four hatchery jack chinook and ten wild jack chinook were caught and released. No adult chinook or steelhead were observed during the creel survey.

A total of 618 anglers were interviewed fishing for species other than salmon. The majority of anglers interviewed in the lower Yakima River were fishing for smallmouth bass. Anglers reported 1,562 bass harvested and 296 bass released. Total angler trips for smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and other non-salmon species was estimated at 8,204 trips (15,126 pole hours).

The expanded WDFW estimate for the six week period was developed by considering the number of fishermen contacted, fish caught, and hours expended that comprise the sample and then expanding the numbers to compensate for times and locations that the creel checkers were not present. The expanded estimate shows about 23,000 bass harvested with another 4,500 bass released. It appears that a huge portion of the catch this year was during the first week of May, but that can vary each year based on water flows and other factors.

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 secretary.rrgc@gmail.com. You will get quicker delivery and save us some money. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Jennifer Gardner, Membership Chair, at jen_gardner11@yahoo.com.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: October 18, 7:00 p.m, Griggs Hunters' Education Room, Pasco. All RR&GC members are invited to attend.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING: November 1 at 7:00 PM at the Richland Public Library. Mike Ritter of WDFW will discuss the merits of breaching the Bateman Island Causeway to benefit salmon. Mark your calendar now so that you don't miss this meeting.

MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST: Don't be shy! We would like to see the photos from your hunting and fishing excursions and the monthly contest winner receives five free tickets for the raffle drawing at the next general membership meeting. Give your photo to Frank Scopa at any meeting or email it to him at secretary.rrgc@gmail.com. Submit as many entries as you want. Photo contest rules are on the RRGC web page. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically via email click on the hyperlink to the Club Website on page 1 of this publication. Then click on Contests, then on Photo Contest where the rules/guidelines are displayed.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH: The September winner is a photo by Scott Estes of his dad, Mike Estes, with a 7.5 pound walleye caught on the Columbia River near Crow Butte.



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

