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

MARCH 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)

2014-15 Officers

Kirby Hammond, Pres. 396-7723 Matt Lucas, Vice Pres. 845-1207

Richard Libby, Treas. 947-0498 Frank Scopa, Sec. 375-4748

**MEETINGS AND DEADLINES**

MARCH GENERAL MEETING—7 pm, Tuesday March 3, Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland

BOARD MEETING—7 pm, Tuesday, March 17, Hunter Education Facility at Griggs in Pasco

**WILD GAME DINNER, 5:00PM, SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, SHILO INN RICHLAND**

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

**MARCH MEETING:** Matt Lucas/Kirby Hammond

The speakers will be Leo Pfeifer and Doug Hitchcock. They will present their report for the 2014 Quality Trip which they won at the 2014 WGD. Matt Wilson from WDFW’s Yakima Office may attend and discuss the current status of the annual migration of waterfowl in our area.

A copy of the RRGC revised Bylaws were attached to the February newsletter as well as the revised Quality Trip Rules. The General Election will be held at the 3rd of March General Meeting to approve the Bylaws revisions and elect officers. Approval of the Bylaws revisions is the first step to obtain our Non-Profit status with the IRA as a 501(c)(3) corporation. The General Membership will be required to vote at the March General Meeting. There is a 30 day review requirement prior to the vote on the Bylaws. Having sent out the proposed revisions on the 25th of January, the 30 day review period has been met. A Nominating Committee has also been established to propose candidates for Club leadership positions. All of the leadership and trustee positions must be voted on in March for one year terms. A proposed slate of officers will be announced at the meeting and floor nominations will be accepted.

**FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP:** Frank Scopa

There were a total of 57 people present at the February Meeting. 47 were members of RRGC and 10 were visitors that attended their first meeting. Vice-President Matt Lucas introduced Dave Hedden of Hedden’s Northwest Sportfishing as the guest speaker. Dave is a local fishing guide for walley, steelhead, salmon and sturgeon. His presentation was on winter sturgeon fishing. Dave recommended that deep holes and drop-offs be targeted since sturgeon are generally lazy and are waiting for food to fall down to them. Based on the river topography, holes can be anywhere from 3’ deep to 60’ deep and are relative to the surrounding structure. Sturgeon are known to forage on sculpin, lamprey, shad, baby fish and salmonids. He recommends that braided 80# test line be used for boat fishing. He further recommends that for shore fishing braided 65# to 80# test be used. Among his pointers, he indicated that heavy duty swivels and sliders be used with 80# to 100# mono for leaders. Bank fishing rods should be 10’ to 15’ rods with either spinning or baitcasting reels. Boat rods are considerably shorter in length and should be no more than 8’ in length. Baits can be roll mop herring, pickled and fresh squid, pickled and fresh shad, sand shrimp, herring, salmon bellies, anchovies and smelt. He did recommend that a sufficient quantity of stretch thread be on hand when bait fishing. He uses Ultra Lemon Joy dish detergent on all of his equipment since sturgeon eat by feel and smell. All bait should be fished on the bottom. Don’t allow the bait to spin and to try different baits in the same hole. Wait to set the hook since sturgeon are slow on the uptake. Use big natural bait for bigger fish. He cautioned that not to fight any fish for more than 45 minutes. If the fish hasn’t been landed in that time, to cut the fish loose since it may be overcome by lactic acid and not survive. Mr. Hedden is offering reduced fees for guided trips through the 30th of April. In lieu of the standard $600 for a full boat of 4 fishermen, the reduced cost is now $500. Contact him at 509 521 8620 or at heddensnwsportfishing@hotmail.com for further information. Hedden’s Northwest Sportfishing is also listed on Face Book.

**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. Printing and mailing costs are eating into the club’s ability to carry on our stated goals (see pledge above). Your help is greatly appreciated. There are now just two e-mail addresses on our roster that have issues that result in undelivered electronic newsletters. I will continue to send out requests for correction this next month. 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 AND MEMBERSHIP:** All members are reminded that their 2016 dues are due by April 1st and must be current in order to purchase Quality Trip Tickets. This can be done at the Wild Game Dinner but early renewal reduces confusion. An effort is being made to ensure that all of the “end of membership” dates are correct and current in the master list. Jennifer Gardner 509-554-2450 has been working on this and the membership list was made current as of the 18th of February. Jennifer will have a table set up at the WGD, please check your information for currency and accuracy.

**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 February 17th.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** March 17th, 7:00PM, Griggs Hunters’ Education Room, Pasco. All RR&GC members are invited to attend.

**WILD GAME DINNER:**

All members are asked to bring any meat donations to either the next general meeting or the next Board Meeting, we will transport them to our storage location. John Prather has generously offered freezer space at his home in Finley. All cuts of big game should be boneless, please no ground meat. Ideally, game birds should also be de-boned. Fish should be provided either frozen in water, or vacuum packed and frozen. **The following is a WDFW requirement.** **Information to be provided for all game meat donations indicating permission for the possession of game meat: Name of donor, address of donor, hunting/fishing license number, permit or tag number, the number and kind of animal provided, the date killed, the county and area in which taken and the hunter/fisherman’s signature.**

The tentative menu for the Wild Game Dinner has been established as follows; **APPETIZERS,** Poppers, Smoked Trout, Salmon Dip/Crackers, Skewered Venison, Fish Tacos, **MAIN DISHES,** Elk Stroganoff , Pheasant Jambalaya, Elk Roast, Baked or Deep Fried Walleye, Alder Smoked Salmon, and Duck L’Orange. Numerous volunteers are needed for cooking kitchen help, set-up, etc. Kitchen volunteers, cooks and set-up help will receive preference for table seating at the dinner. A Volunteer Sheet will be passed around at the March General Meeting.

Paul Kison (509-545-6050) has asked that all items that are being donated for the WGD raffle be given to him as soon as possible. Letters are available from RRGC signed by Kirby Hammond (509-713-4668) for presentation to donors. Given the level of activity on the day of the WGD, the sooner that an item can be turned over to Paul, the less hectic his effort will be. For those members who know shop or store owners who you think would like to donate a raffle item to the club, please let Kirby Hammond or Paul Kison know.

**WILD GAME DINNER TICKETS: The WGD will be held on the 28th of March. No Host Cocktails will start at 5:00 PM with Dinner starting at 6:00 PM. The location will be the Banquet Room of the Columbia River Trading Company at the Shilo Inn in Richland. Tickets can be purchased from the following individuals, Dale Schielke, 509-375-0183, Rick Libby, 509-627-5461, John Prather 509-521-1593 or Richard Sharpe 509-586-4790.** **There are ten tickets in each book of tickets. Sales of ten tickets will reserve one complete table.**

**IN MEMORIAM OF CLARE CRANSTON**

A Memorial Service was held on the 7th of February at the South Hills Church in Kennewick. Numerous members attended and were given the opportunity to express stories and remembrances involving Clare.

**CONSERVATION:**

Cistern 21 was completely rebuilt on the 13th of February. Volunteers were Larry Martin, Gene Van Liew, Ron Ruth, Jim Cartmell, Larry Noggles and Frank Scopa. The unit was destroyed nearly two years ago during a fire above Prosser in the Horse Heaven Hills. There is a post in Face Book regarding this effort. With warmer weather coming, repairs and maintenance of the guzzlers will take on a regular schedule. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Larry Martin at 509 521 2554.

Dale Schielke reported that the annual maintenance on wood duck nest boxes is about 43% complete.  As of Feb 22nd 180 boxes have been checked with 47% usage by wood ducks with 277 membranes counted.  We are discovering the post hatch membrane count is lower than the actual pre-hatch egg count in the boxes we have checked during nesting season.  This means the actual ducklings produced may be 50% or more higher than the membrane count reported in our data.  An in-box camera is currently operating (Live Streaming Video) in a box that has been frequented by a Western Screech Owl.  You can get the links and other information on <http://www.rrgcwoodducks.org>.  We hope to purchase an additional HD camera with money that was donated to the project and have it operational when the wood ducks start nesting in April. If you are able to help, contact Dale at 509 375-0183 or dahlialou@msn.com.

Gene Van Liew informed the Board that fish food has been distributed to 15 schools to date. This was the first effort for this season’s Salmon in the Classroom.

**UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS AND CLUB GATHERINGS,** Richard Sharpe

Richard announced that WDFW had increased the derby registration fee to $94/event. Given the increase in cost, he recommended that RRGC sponsor a RRGC gathering for the Mity-Might fishing event on the 16th of May. The Mity-Might event will be members/guests only gathering with a potluck to follow. The Moonlight Catfish Derby will be an open event hosted by RRGC. The potluck afterwards would be for RRGC members only due to Department of Health requirements. There was an agreement at the Board Meeting that Richard’s recommendations be accepted. Richard will make the reservations with the City of Richland Parks Department for the gazeboes.

**QUALITY TRIP RULES**

A copy of the revised Quality Trip Rules was sent out with the February Newsletter. The Board of Directors as well as the Special Volunteers have reviewed the previous version. Please keep these requirements in mind if you win the Quality Trip at this year’s Big Game Dinner. Thanks to Rick Libby for initiating and following through on this effort.

**WANT ADS**

If you have something to sell, contact Frank Scopa at secretary.rrgc@yahoo.com or 509-375-4748.

