



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.

March 2024, Volume 79 No. 3

Club Website- www.richlandrodandgun.org

Club Facebook- www.facebook.com/RichlandRodandGunClub

2023/2024 Officers

President

Matt Cummings

(509) 948-4905

Secretary

Mike Estes

(509) 551-9066

Treasurer

Richard Libby

(509)947-0498

MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

Next General Meeting – March 5, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

Next Board Meeting- March 19, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room

April Newsletter Contribution Deadline is March 22.

email: admin@richlandrodandgun.org

March 5 General Meeting Presentation **7:00pm at the Richland Public Library**

The speaker for our March 5 meeting will be Todd Miller, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist, who will present the annual fishing forecast for our local waters. If you have a catch record card for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon that needs to be submitted by April 30, 2024 you can bring it to the meeting and save a stamp. Todd will collect them and submit them for us. This should be a very busy meeting with annual election of Officers and Trustees, renewal of memberships that expire on March 31, last chance to purchase tickets to the Wild Game dinner that will be held on March 23, and an opportunity to purchase chances in the Quality Trip drawing that will be conducted at the Wild Game Dinner.

Elections and Annual Meeting

The club's bylaws identify the March general membership meeting as our annual meeting where the first item of New Business is the election of Officers and Trustees for the next

year (April through March). Our Board of Directors consists of four elected officers (President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary), up to 15 elected Trustees, and the Immediate Past President. The Nominating Committee appointed by the President recommends the following members for election as our 2024-2025 Officers and Trustees. President: Richard Sharp. Vice-President: Evan Kirkpatrick. Treasurer: Rick Libby. Secretary: Mike Estes. Immediate Past President: Matt Cummings. Trustees: Bruce Hewitt, Monte Kelsey, Paul Kison, Packy Lackey, Micah Little, Larry Martin, Dave Miller, Ron Moore, Dave Myers, John Prather, Dale Schielke, Gene Van Liew, Braydon Wodtli, and Pete Workman. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Wild Game Dinner Tickets and Quality Trip Chances

This may be your last chance to purchase tickets to the Wild Game Dinner that will be held Saturday, March 23 at 5:00pm at the Benton Franklin Fairgrounds in Kennewick. The program presenter will be author and outdoor writer Rob Phillips. Dinner tickets and Quality Trip chances are \$25 each. Membership dues for 2024 must be paid to participate in the Quality Trip drawing. See Dale Schielke for dinner tickets and Rick Libby for Quality Trip chances. Quality Trip rules are shown further down in this newsletter.

Wild Game Dinner Preparations and Prize Donations

We need meat donations, prize donation collectors, cooks and helpers for the 2024 Wild Game Dinner. If you still have meat to donate please bring it to the March 5 meeting. If you have collected prizes or have a prize to donate please bring it to the meeting or contact John Prather at 509-521-1593. The deadline for prize donations is March 16. Please consider helping at the following food prep events.

- Friday, March 1 at 6pm - A few helpers are needed to debone and grind the meat before mixing the sausage preparations. This event should take about 2 hours.
- Saturday, March 2 at 9am - The crew will begin the stuffing of the sausage mixed on Friday. Should be done in 2 hours.
- Sunday, March 3 at 9am – Appetizer preparation; probably meatballs and smoked fish cakes. Also the sausages will be put on the smoker.

Friday and Saturday events are at John Prather's shop, 215107 E. Game Farm Road, Kennewick. Snacks and beverages will be provided for both events. Sunday event is at Marilyn's house, 41530 S Morton Rd., Kennewick. These events are open to anyone interested in helping. No experience is needed so come join the fun! Please text Marilyn at 509-392-2128 if you need more information.

Quality Trip Rules

Annual membership dues expire on March 31. Dues must be paid for 2024 to be eligible to enter the 2024 Quality Trip drawing. Each member is eligible to purchase two chances in the drawing but members who have performed volunteer work on a number of RRGCC projects and activities are eligible to earn additional chances. A free chance in the raffle

will be offered to any member who 1) purchases a chance in the drawing, and 2) has accumulated 20 or more hours of volunteer work on club sponsored projects during the preceding calendar year (January 1 through December 31, 2023). A second free chance will be offered if the individual purchases 2 or more chances and has accumulated 40 or more hours as described in the preceding sentence. No member may be awarded more than two free chances in the drawing. Volunteer service on the following projects will count towards the accumulated hours.

- Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show – Lunker Lake and Youth Pellet Range (set-up, tear down, shift work)
- Wild Game Dinner (food preparation, cooks, equipment transport, event set-up and tear down)
- KOE Special Needs and Kids Fishing Days (rod assembly, mentoring, event activities)
- Angler Education (class instructors and assistants)
- Hunter Education Class (instructors and assistants during classes and range day)
- Hunter Education Pheasant Hunt (mentors and dog handlers)
- Introduction to Firearms Class (instructors and assistants)
- Salmon in the Classroom (egg and supply deliveries, carcass deliveries, dissections, fish release)
- Habitat (water guzzler installation, monitoring, maintenance, removal or relocation)
- Wood Duck Nests (construction, installation, monitoring and maintenance, student instruction)
- RRGK wildlife related group projects in support of WDFW, USFWS, and other agencies.

Quality Trip chances are available from Treasurer Rick Libby. The drawing will be held as the last event of the annual RR&GC Wild Game Dinner on March 23, 2024. The winner does not need to be present to win. Follow this link to the Quality Trip page then click on Quality Trip Rules underlined in the first paragraph: <https://www.richlandrodandgun.org/trips>

2024 Hunter Education Classes

The first Hunter Education class of the year is from April 1-5 with range day on Saturday April 6. The class coincides with spring break for local schools and will be a daytime class. The other classes will be evening classes on July 8-12 with range day on Saturday July 13, and September 9-13 with range day on Saturday September 14. Registration for each class will open approximately 30 days prior to the first day of the class so it is now time to register for the April class. Register on line at [Hunter education training | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#). For more information contact Ron at ronruth.huntered@gmail.com

KOE 2024 Fishing Events and Group Rod Assembly

Fishing rods need to be assembled for all the participants in the KOE Special Needs fishing event to be held on Friday, April 19 at Columbia Park Pond and the KOE Kids Fishing Day to be held on Saturday, April 20 at the same location. There will be a gathering on Saturday, April 6, at 9:00am at Grigg's in Pasco to assemble rods. See the flyer and registration forms below and RSVP to Marilyn so she can plan for lunch for volunteers on April 6. Many volunteers will be needed to assist with rod assembly and at the fishing events so please save the dates on your calendar and plan to lend a hand.

COME HELP ASSEMBLE RODS FOR THE KIDS FISHING KOE EVENT
SATURDAY APRIL 6th
GRIGGS

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE HELPING ASSEMBLE RODS WITH BBQ brought to you by SAUSAGE DADDY for ALL THAT SHOW UP AND HELP - HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED by KOE. ALSO DON'T FORGET TO SIGN YOUR KIDS UP FOR THE KIDS FISHING EVENT APRIL 19th and 20th. VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED TO HELP THE KIDS

TIME 9:00am Griqqs in pasco April 6th
PLEASE RSVP to momhoops46@GMAIL.COM

Kids! Fishing Day
Saturday April 20, 2024
 Rod and Reel Combo for each Child
 Child must be present to receive their rod and reel combo
 Where: Columbia Park Pond, Kennewick
 Cost: \$10 per Kid no refunds after April 1st
 Ages: 5-14 years old - must be within this age range at the time of the event

Official Registration - NO Mail-ins - Online accepted until 11:59 pm April 17th

Child's full name _____ Birth Date _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____
 E-mail (required to confirm assigned fishing time) _____
 Parents name (please print) _____

Please mark fishing times in order of preference (150 slots available per session)

7:30 - 8:30 9:00 - 10:00 10:30 - 11:30 12:00 - 1:00 1:30 - 2:30 3:00 - 4:00

NO MAIL IN REGISTRATION

On-line: Register on-line until 11:59 pm April 17th: https://apm.activescommunities.com/kennewick/Activity_Search/

TURN OVER
FORM ON BACK MUST BE COMPLETED WITH SIGNATURE

Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show Recap

Thanks again to everyone who helped at the Lunker Lake kids fishing pond and kids Air Rifle Range at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show. 1,282 trout were caught during the three days. Only 85 remained when the pond was drained at the end of the show. Daily catch was 291 fish on Friday afternoon, 580 on Saturday, and 411 on Sunday. Proceeds from the event were \$2,629 for fish caught on Friday and Saturday, \$1,000 from Grigg's Ace Hardware for fish caught on Sunday during the Free Fishing Day, and \$250 from Shuyler Productions, the Sportsmen Show producer, for a total of \$3,879. Shuyler also paid for the plastic pond liner, hooks and bait, and the rental of a sump pump. RRGc expenses were \$1,286 for fish food for WDFW to raise the trout, \$157.53 for prizes for tagged fish caught, \$50 to replace a fishing net that was broken during the pond take down, and about \$200 for food for volunteers. Net proceeds to RRGc were about \$2,200 but we also made a lot of kids and their families happy, spread the word about our club and got a few new members, and promoted the principles for which RRGc exists. John Prather and Larry Martin delivered the donated trout from Lunker Lake to Blue Mountain Wildlife in Pendleton, Oregon for food for birds of prey. Lynn Thompkins and her assistant had just finished a blood test on the eagle pictured below that showed chelation therapy was successful in removing a high concentration of lead in the blood. When found the eagle was so weak it couldn't fly and is now strong enough to be returned to the wild soon. Lynn urges people to use nontoxic shot and projectiles as much as possible when hunting.



Salmon in the Classroom

Volunteers delivered food for the soon to hatch young salmon in fish tanks at 41 local schools on February 8, 2024. The young fish will be released by students at the East Columbia Park boat ramp during the Salmon Summit on Monday April 15 and Tuesday April 16. If you are interested in assisting with the salmon release, please contact Gene Van Liew at 509-578-6811. Thanks from Gene and RRGc to the volunteers!

Wood Duck Nest Box Maintenance

Dale Schielke reports the annual maintenance of the RRG wood duck nesting boxes is underway. 205 of the 580 existing nest boxes have been checked as of February 20. Annual maintenance includes removal of the old nesting material, documenting what was found (number of membranes, old eggs, and use by other species), and installing new nesting material. So far, we have found 686 membranes, recaptured 2 previously banded screech owls, and banded one new screech owl. We have only been able to check boxes that we can reach by land due to a stand-down of all WDFW volunteer projects on the water or less than 6 feet from a bank due to two WDFW employees drowning within the last 6 months. This may impact our ability complete the annual maintenance before April 1 on the boxes that we access from boats.



Guzzler Maintenance

Larry Martin reported that he inspected several water guzzlers between Benton City and Prosser this past month. New steel posts were installed to replace burned posts on guzzler #4. Larry inspected and cleaned guzzler #2 and found a small hole burned in the top of the fiberglass water tank top by a fire. The hole will require repair at a future date. Larry was surprised to find that damage to Guzzler #16 was already repaired by someone else.

Veterans Duck Hunt at Barker Ranch

WDFW set February 3, 2024 as a special migratory bird hunt day for youth, veterans, and active military. RRG members who are military veterans were invited by Michael Crowder, manager of Barker Ranch in West Richland, to participate again this year in the veterans' hunt at the ranch. Kirby Hammond, Dave Miller, Bill Lambert, and Kevyn Halazon

represented RRGCC and all were successful in harvesting their limits of ducks. Many thanks to Michael and the Barker Ranch owners for providing this opportunity to our members.

RRGC Memorial Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted for Richland Rod and Gun Club Memorial Scholarships. The scholarship is named in memory of the club's devoted members now deceased. Eligible applicants should be pursuing a conservation related degree such as natural resources management, fish and wildlife sciences, forest resources, range ecology and management, or similar wildlife or natural resources related program and have enough college credits to qualify as junior status by next fall. Scholarship selections are based on merit. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 10, 2024 or submitted via email to rrgcsecretary@gmail.com by April 15.

Hunter Education Pheasant Hunt - by Ron Ruth

This year's 2023 Hunter Ed Pheasant Hunt was held on February 17, 2024 at the Limits Game Farm near Mesa. There were 25 hunter education students present this year. The first group started out at the Connell Gun Club with some clay bird shooting to warm the students up for their hunt. After clay bird shooting the first group went down to Limits Game Farm and was given a safety briefing for the upcoming hunt then paired up with mentors and dog handlers and proceeded to their hunting location. This year we had a couple of different hunting areas from the past couple of years that added some interesting opportunities. The second group of students arrived around 10 am at the Connell Gun Club and proceeded to shoot clay birds warming them up for their hunt. After the second group finished shooting clay birds, they went down to Limits Game Farm and were met by the first group of students coming back from their hunt. At that time all the students attended a "hunting clinic" put on by Dave Myers of Richland Rod & Gun Club. At the end of Dave's presentation, the WDFW game enforcement officer Tom Bolt spoke to the students about his role as a game enforcement officer. After the clinic everybody met in the main building where a awesome lunch was provided by Limits Game Farm and Pheasants Forever (PF). This year we fed approximately 100 people. The chicken, Tri Tip, and all the fixings were attacked, and nobody left the dining hall hungry. After lunch the second group of students was given a safety briefing for their upcoming hunt and paired up with mentors and dog handlers and proceeded to their hunt. Around 4:00 pm the afternoon hunters were back at Limits Game Farm with their harvest of birds. WDFW provided over 80 pheasants that

were released for the two hunting groups. The weather was great. Almost all the student hunters got a bird, and all of them got to shoot at a bird. A lot of shooting was done by all the students and a lot of ammo was expended! Special thanks goes out to several of the sponsors of this year's hunter ed pheasant hunt: Ringold PF Chapter for purchasing and preparing the food and birds, Connell Gun Club for providing the facilities and clay bird thrower, Marilyn Steele for delicious desserts, WDFW for providing the birds and guns for those that didn't have one to hunt with, and to Tom Bolt, enforcement officer, for his presentation, Richland Rod and Gun Club for providing guns to those students that didn't have one, and a very nice monetary donation, and Griggs Department Store in Pasco for the hunting ammunition and clay birds, Special thanks to Ashley Reser for helping with the check-in process, and Chyanne King for taking all the photographs. Over 25 individuals volunteered this year as either mentors or dog handlers, several PF volunteers who helped with the set up of the dining hall, did all the cooking, planted the pheasants, and showed the hunter ed students how to clean birds. And last but certainly not least a very special thanks to Dave and Pam Piovesan of Limits Game Farm for all the help, coordination, facilities, and making sure this year's hunter education pheasant hunt was a success. Thanks to everybody!

Ron Ruth, Chief Hunter Ed Instructor

Photo of the Month

There were two Photo Contest entries this month. Dan Evans submitted a photo his son Joshua took of Joshua's 12 year old brother Brandon with Brandon's first harvested wild bird, a California quail, on December 30, 2023. Ron Ruth submitted a group photo of the Hunter Education class graduates – the hunters - at the HE pheasant hunt at Limits Game Farm on February 17. Ron's photo won in a very close vote.



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 \(richlandrodandgun.org\)](http://richlandrodandgun.org)

Get involved in one of our Committees:

Salmon in the Classroom: Gene Van Liew – e.van-liew@hotmail.com

Wild Game Dinner: Marilyn Steele – momhoops46@gmail.com

Wood Ducks: Dale Schielke – dahlialou@gmail.com

KOE – Kids Fishing Day: Marilyn Steele – momhoops46@gmail.com

Hunter Ed: Ron Ruth – RonRuth.HunterEd@gmail.com

Guzzlers: Larry Martin - larry49martin@gmail.com

Youth Conservation Camp - larry49martin@gmail.com

Membership: Connie Cummings – richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com

Scholarship: Mike Estes - estesm34@gmail.com

Website: Ron Moore – admin@richlandrodandgun.org

RRGC Club Upcoming Activities

Wild Game Dinner – March 23, 2024 at the Benton County Fairgrounds

KOE Fishing Rod Assembly –

April 6, 9:00am, Grigg's in Pasco

Salmon Summit and Salmon Release – April 15 and 16, 2024 at Columbia Park

KOE Special Needs and Kids Fishing Events – April 19 and 20, 2024 at Columbia Park Pond