



# **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.

August 2024, Volume 79 No. 8

Club Website- [www.richlandrodandgun.org](http://www.richlandrodandgun.org)

Club Facebook- [www.facebook.com/RichlandRodandGunClub](https://www.facebook.com/RichlandRodandGunClub)

## **2024/2025 Officers**

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Richard Sharp	Evan Kirkpatrick	Mike Estes	Richard Libby
(509) 551-6785	(414) 534-2817	(509) 551-9066	(509)947-0498

## **MEETINGS AND DEADLINES**

Next General Meeting – September 3, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

Next Board Meeting- August 20, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room

September Newsletter Contribution Deadline is August 22.

Email: [admin@richlandrodandgun.org](mailto:admin@richlandrodandgun.org)

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## **Annual Picnic and Liars Contest – August 6 at 6:00pm**

The annual RRGK potluck picnic will be August 6 at Leslie Groves Park Gazebo #1 in Richland. **There are two changes since last month's newsletter.** Dinner will be at 6:00pm rather than at 5:00pm to avoid potential late afternoon heat. The \$3.00 charge per person is waived this year due to the generous donation of salmon for the dinner by member John Merk. Thank you, John!!! The club will provide barbequed chicken and salmon, plates, cutlery, napkins, and drinks (bottled water and various canned soda). Please bring a side or salad if your last name begins with A through L, or a dessert if it starts with M through Z. The Liars Contest will follow dinner with prizes awarded for first, second, and third place. Bring your lawn chair and a good lie and join us for a fun relaxing evening in the park. Even when it is hot there is usually a nice breeze by the river. Take Davison or Harris Avenues to Park Street. Turn east towards the river and continue into the parking area. Gazebo #1 is just north of the swimming beach.

## **Memoriam - Howard Gardner**

Howard Gardner was born April 16, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois, and passed on July 9, 2024. Howard received a bachelor's degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology where he was a starter on the basketball team. In February 1952, Howard and his bride of three months, Dorothy, departed Chicago for Richland, Washington where he worked his entire career at Hanford.

Howard joined RRGc in 1957, was the club's president that year, and remained a member until his passing. Howard served as president again in 1977 and 1989. The club's Distinguished Service Award was created in 1975 and awarded to Howard in 1976. Howard was among the first group of RRGc members to receive the 25 year member belt buckle in August 1985.

Howard was awarded Life Member status in 1991. The RRGc Gardner-Cranston Award was created in 1998 and is the club's highest award. The first recipients were Howard Gardner and Clare Cranston.



Howard became a hunter safety instructor in 1957, the same year the Washington State Legislature created the program. Howard was recognized for 50 years of volunteer service as an instructor by WDFW and the Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association (WHEIA) with the gift of a firearm. Howard was recognized by WDFW and WHEIA for 65 years as an instructor at the March 2022 Wild Game Dinner when they announced the creation of a WHEIA award named after him for any instructor achieving 60 years of service.

Howard was the unofficial RRGH Historian. The basement of his home was filled with RRGH memorabilia! Howard wrote the club's history for our web page. Old newsletters were scanned from Howard's extensive "library" going back decades to be put on the web.

Howard was also an avid cyclist, backpacker, hunter, and fisherman who truly loved the outdoors.

Howard was instrumental in creating the RRGc scholarship program. The first scholarship was awarded in 1993. Howard chaired the scholarship committee for more than two decades and even paid for scholarships to two students independent of the scholarships paid for by RRGc. The name of the scholarship was changed to RRGc Memorial Scholarship in 2016 as recognition of all of the deceased RRGc members who have volunteered their extensive time and energy to the Club and our interests. Howard has truly earned his place on that list of volunteers.



### **Final 2024 Hunter Education Classes**

The July 2024 Hunter Education class had 27 graduates. Congratulations to the hunters and instructors. The last scheduled class this year will be evening sessions on September 9-13 with range day on Saturday September 14. Registration for the class will open approximately 30 days prior to the first day of the class. Register on line at [Hunter education training | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#). For more information contact Chief Instructor Ron Ruth at [ronruth.huntered@gmail.com](mailto:ronruth.huntered@gmail.com)

## Welcome To Our New Members

New members approved at the July Board meeting are the Robert and Tricia Davis family of Kennewick and George Stotz of Pasco. We hope that we will see them at the picnic and upcoming meetings so we can introduce ourselves and get to know them.

## The Lighter Side

This cartoon “tickled” Dave Myers enough that he wanted to share it with all of us. Has anyone other than me had a dog look at you after you have missed a bird and left you with the impression that your dog thinks you should be replaced as the shooter?



CAUTION - Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission – CAUTION

The Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting on July 19, 2024 resulted in more bad news for hunters. Cougar hunting seasons were shortened and a harvest cap of 13 per cent in each population management unit (PMU) was established. The cap includes all known human-caused cougar mortalities to determine when to close a PMU during the season. A vehicle caused mortality counts the same as a harvested animal.

The Commission decided against the staff recommendation to reclassify gray wolves as a protected sensitive species in Washington. As such, gray wolves remain listed as state endangered in Washington. This vote does not impact the federal classification of gray wolves, which remain federally listed as endangered in the western two-thirds of Washington and federally de-listed in the eastern third.

You may be aware that on January 27, 2023, the Commission voted to deny a petition to begin rule making for spring black bear management hunts for 2023 and beyond. Thus, there is no spring black bear season in Washington any more. At this meeting, the Commission delegated a rule making petition to establish a spring black bear depredation permit season to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) director. The director will review the merits of the petition and decide whether to accept the petition to initiate rule making. Be aware that this does not mean that the Commission will accept staff's recommendation.

Governor Inslee has stacked the Commission against hunters and fishermen. Jim Anderson, John Lehmkuhl, and Woody Myers are the only remaining commissioners who identify themselves as hunters or fishermen. That leaves twice as many other commissioners who have a different perspective, and a different agenda with respect to wildlife.

Our right to hunt and fish is being threatened on many fronts. Joint resolutions SJR 8208 and HJR 4212 were introduced in the Washington State Legislature last year to allow a vote by citizens to amend the state constitution to enshrine the right to hunt, fish, trap, and forage in the state of Washington. The bills needed to pass the full Senate and House by two-thirds margins to advance to a vote by the people. A simple majority vote during the next general election would then be needed to implement a constitutional amendment. SJR 8208 advanced to the Senate Rules Committee in plenty of time to be advanced to the floor but it was stalled and killed by the Democratic committee chair. I spoke with Senators Matt Boenke of Kennewick and Curtis King of Yakima and they have pledged to reintroduce the bill this legislative session and push for a floor vote. As soon as this year's election results are known, it will be time to get on the phone again to garner support for this action.

I encourage you to become informed and engaged in the issues that are affecting the things we care about. I will not even get into details of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council action in April 2024 regarding a WDFW representative's vote to approve the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project application "for the greater good" even though WDFW staff had collected and presented data showing the negative effects of the project to wildlife. Was the

WDFW vote based on science or, more likely, political pressure from the WDFW Director or the Governor's office?

Things you can do right now are to vote carefully in the primary and general elections, and consider joining **Howl for Wildlife**, [howlforwildlife.org](http://howlforwildlife.org). Howl is a nonprofit that works for the conservation & management of fisheries & wildlife through science based data with action and engagement. You can sign up for their notifications even if you don't join. Help save the future of hunting and fishing in Washington. – Mike Estes -

### **Photo of the Month**

This month's winning photo was submitted by Ron Ruth showing the July 2024 Hunter Education class graduates. The photo submitted to the BOD for the contest was printed on a copy machine and we did not receive the digital file to be able to include the photo in the newsletter. Sorry, folks. Other contest entries were received from Marc Stevenson showing Marc (on left), guide, and friend Dennis from Kennewick with a 38 pound halibut that Marc caught at Zeballos, British Columbia on June 28, 2024 and a photo submitted by Mike Estes of he and his son, Scott, with their daily limits of halibut caught while fishing unguided at Icy Strait near Chichagof Island, Alaska on June 22, 2024. (Photo taken by Kurt Clemmens of Burbank, WA.)







### **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](mailto:e.van-liew@hotmail.com)

Wild Game Dinner 2025: Marilyn Steele – [momhoops46@gmail.com](mailto:momhoops46@gmail.com)

Wood Ducks: Dale Schielke – [dahlialou@gmail.com](mailto:dahlialou@gmail.com)

KOE Kids Fishing Day: Marilyn Steele – [momhoops46@gmail.com](mailto:momhoops46@gmail.com)

Hunter Ed: Ron Ruth – [RonRuth.HunterEd@gmail.com](mailto:RonRuth.HunterEd@gmail.com)

Guzzlers: Larry Martin - [larry49martin@gmail.com](mailto:larry49martin@gmail.com)

Youth Conservation Camp - [larry49martin@gmail.com](mailto:larry49martin@gmail.com)

Membership: Ron Moore – [richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com](mailto:richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com)

Scholarship: Mike Estes - [estesm34@gmail.com](mailto:estesm34@gmail.com)

Website: Ron Moore – [admin@richlandrodandgun.org](mailto:admin@richlandrodandgun.org)

### **RRGC Club Upcoming Activities**

RRGC Picnic – August 6, 6:00pm Leslie Groves Park

Next General Membership Meeting –September 3 at 7:00pm, Richland Public Library

Hunter Education Class – September 9 through 14, Grigg's classroom and TCMSA range

Wild Game Dinner – March 22, 2025, Benton County Fairgrounds Building 4