



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.

February 2024, Volume 79 No. 2

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 – February 6, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

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

March Newsletter Contribution Deadline is February 22.

email: admin@richlandrodandgun.org

February 6th General Meeting Presentation

7:00pm at the Richland Public Library

The speaker for our February 6 meeting will be our 2023 Quality Trip winner Scott Estes. Scott and his partner, his father Mike, traveled to Lake Fort Peck, Montana in July in pursuit of several species of fish that are not available in our local waters. Can you guess what species those might be? Join us at the meeting to find out and perhaps trigger some ideas for your trip if you are the 2024 Quality Trip winner.

Wild Game Dinner Tickets and Quality Trip Chances

Wild Game Dinner tickets and Quality Trip chances will be available for purchase at the February meeting. Get your dinner tickets before they are gone. The Wild Game Dinner will be held Saturday, March 23 at the Benton Franklin Fairgrounds in Kennewick. The program presenter will be author and outdoor writer Rob Phillips. Perhaps you got a chance to meet Rob at his booth at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show. Dinner tickets and

Quality Trip chances are \$25 each. Membership dues for 2024 must be paid to participate in the Quality Trip drawing.

Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show

Thanks to everyone who helped at the Lunker Lake fishing pond and Kids' Air Rifle Range at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show. It takes a lot of volunteers to make the event a success. Special thanks to Dave Myers and Paul Kison for coordinating the pond set up and tear down, to Ron Ruth for coordinating the Air Rifle Range, to Dale Schielke for coordinating the fish delivery and tagging and for obtaining prizes for the tagged fish that were caught, and to Marilyn Steele for assuring that our volunteers were well fed during their shifts. The named individuals and others did so much more than can be summarized here. Everyone's contributions are appreciated!

Wild Game Dinner Preparations

We need meat donations, prize donation collectors, cooks and helpers for the 2024 Wild Game Dinner. Meat donations give us the base to develop our menu. Any wild critter, whether caught or shot, is welcome except that we cannot accept ground meat. A reminder that each package must be tagged with the donor's name, WILD ID number, species and cut of meat, plus the date and location taken. Please contact John Prather, 509-521-1593, if you have meat or a prize to donate or are willing to help collect donations from local businesses. We do as much food preparation prior to the day of the dinner as possible like making various sausages and smoking fish. 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 event will be appetizer prep. 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. 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 needed. If you need more information please text Marilyn at 509-392-2128.

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 RRGC 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)
- RRGc 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>

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. Our organization depends on volunteers to accomplish everything that we do. The Board provides the financial oversight, planning, and decision making necessary to keep everything moving along. If you are or might be interested in joining the Board, please contact Richard Sharp (509-551-6785) or Mike Estes (509-551-9066) to express interest or have any questions answered. Serving on the Board is a great way to become more involved and to develop personal relationships with other members.

Date Change for KOE 2024 Fishing Events

Due to a scheduling conflict with the City of Kennewick, the Kids Outdoor Education (KOE) fishing events will be one week earlier than previously announced. The KOE Special Needs fishing event will be held on Friday, April 19 at Columbia Park Pond. The KOE Kids Fishing Day will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the same location. Many, many volunteers will be needed to assist with this event so please save the dates on your calendar. More info to follow.

2024 Hunter Education Classes

Three hunter education classes are scheduled for 2024. The first class 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. Register on line at [Hunter education training | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#). For more information contact Ron at ronruth.huntered@gmail.com

Salmon in the Classroom

Volunteers delivered salmon eggs to fish tanks in 41 schools on January 4, 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.



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.

Photo of the Month

The winning photo for January was submitted by Ron Ruth. The photo was taken by John Prather on January 6, 2024 at Limits Game Farm showing Wyatt Schoenwald and Jose Mendoza who participated in one of three No Hunter Left Behind mentored hunts in January sponsored by RRGCC and Limits Game Farm. Photos are voted on at the monthly Board of Directors meetings so please submit them in accordance with the contest rules to admin@richlandrodandgun.org prior to the third Tuesday of each month.



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

Lunker Lake: Matt Cummings – riverviewcounsel@gmail.com

Dale Schielke – dahlialou@gmail.com

RRGC Club Upcoming Activities

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

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