



# **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.

April 2025, Volume 80 No. 4

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      |
| Evan Kirkpatrick | Adrian Quinones | Mike Estes     | Ron Moore      |
| (414) 534-2817   | (619) 861-9204  | (509) 551-9066 | (509) 521-4528 |

## **MEETINGS AND DEADLINES**

Next General Meeting – April 1, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

Next Board Meeting- April 15, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room

May Newsletter Contribution Deadline is April 22.

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

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## **April 1 General Membership Meeting** **7:00pm at the Richland Public Library**

Bass tournament fisherman Rickey Hamilton of West Richland will share his knowledge about spring bass fishing during his presentation at our April 1 meeting. If you are itching to get on the water and catch some fish this spring, it never hurts to have as many tactics as possible at your disposal. You might pick up a tip or two from this program to add to your bag of tricks.

April 1st | 7 P.M

Richland Rod and Gun Club General Meeting

## The Richland Rod & Gun Club to Host

Rickey Hamilton on spring bass, gear and tricks and tips. A Q&A will follow the presentation



Rickey will be speaking at the Richland Public Library April 1st at 7PM!!!

### 2025-2026 Officers and Trustees

Annual election of officers and trustees which comprise the Board of Directors was held at the March general membership meeting. Board members for 2025-2026 (April 1 through March 31) are:

**President:** Evan Kirkpatrick

**Vice-President:** Adrian Quinones

**Treasurer:** Ron Moore

**Secretary:** Mike Estes

**Immediate Past President:** Richard Sharp

**Trustees:** Maija Greer, Tim Irvin, Monte Kelsey, Paul Kison, Packy Lackey, Micah Little, Larry Martin, Karen McNiven, Dave Miller, Dave Myers, John Prather, Dale Schielke, Braydon Wodtli, and Pete Workman.

Thank you to everyone who served on the Board last year and to those who have agreed to serve for the coming year.

## **Membership Renewals**

Annual memberships expire on March 31. If you haven't paid your dues for the coming year yet, please do so soon because we don't want to lose you as a member. If you need assistance or have questions about your membership, please send an email to [richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com](mailto:richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com)

## **KOE 2025 Fishing Events and Group Rod Assembly**

The KOE Special Needs fishing event will be held on Friday, April 11 at Columbia Park Pond and the KOE Kids Fishing Day will be held the next day on Saturday, April 12 at the same location. Registration for Kids Fishing Day opened on line on March 14 and **sold out in less than a day**. Now we need lots of volunteers to assist with assembly of more than 1,000 fishing rods and to assist as fishing mentors, fish cleaners, and helpers at the events. KOE has purchased two additional fish cleaning stations this year to help speed up the process. Additional fish cleaners will be needed to man those stations. Group rod assembly will be on Saturday, March 29, beginning at 9:00am at Grigg's in Pasco. Lunch will be provided to volunteers. Rods may also be picked up that morning for assembly at home. Please save these dates on your calendar and plan to lend a hand.

MARCH 29 – 9AM GRIGGS - ROD ASSEMBLY and rod pick up for home assembly  
APRIL 9 – FISH ARRIVE AT POND – SECURITY HELP NEEDED  
APRIL 11 – 7AM SET UP BY CITY, 9AM FINISH SET UP – FISH CLEANING STATION  
APRIL 11 – SPECIAL NEEDS FISHING 12:30 TO 6PM. VOLUNTEER DINNER 6PM  
APRIL 12 – 7AM TO 4PM FISHING, THEN CLEANUP  
Contact information: Marilyn Steele, momhoops46@gmail.com

## **Wild Game Dinner Recap**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> annual RRG Wild Game Dinner is history and what a fun evening it was! Thanks to Marilyn's Steele's leadership and the work of the dozens of volunteers who helped with the food preparation, cooking and baking, and event set up and tear down. Wild game and fish and fowl prepared in so many tasty ways and much more food than we could fit into the stomachs of all the attendees. Thanks to the individuals and businesses who donated prizes for the bucket raffles, door prizes, and silent auction and congratulations to all the prize winners. John Clement's program presentation of his photography showing skies aglow with color that our eyes often miss or cannot even see was enthralling. Congratulations to Ron Moore for being recognized with a Distinguished Service Award. Mike Estes was the lucky winner of the Quality Trip with Richard Sharp drawn as the alternate winner in the unlikely event that Mike cannot take the trip.















### **Welcome to Our New Members**

The Board approved five new memberships this month. Please extend a warm welcome to Mark Melton of Starbuck, Michael Jordan of Burbank, Jordan McCreight and family of Benton City, Bob Turner and family of West Richland, and Chris Almanza and family of Kennewick. We love seeing new family memberships!

### **Next Hunter Education Class Starts March 31, 2025**

The next Hunter Education class begins on Monday March 31, 2025. It will be an evening class held at Grigg's Department Store in Pasco from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. On line registration is open on the WDFW web site and at least eighteen persons have already registered for the class.

### **Thank You's Received**

Thank you letters were received this month from RRG Use of Funds donation recipients Friends of the Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges, USA Shooting, and the NRA Foundation. The donation to FCMRWR helps sustain the environmental education program at McNary NWR. The donation to USA Shooting helps fund preparation of the USA teams

for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. USA Olympic teams are 100% funded by private donations. The NRA Foundation letter states “Your support is instrumental in advancing our mission to promote firearms education, safety, and training programs across the country and to enable us to continue efforts to preserve our shooting sports heritage, support youth programs, and ensure that the principles of responsible gun ownership are passed down to future generations.” Money well invested!

### **Wood Duck Nest Box Maintenance**

Dale Schielke, John Merk, and their helpers have nearly completed the annual nest box cleaning and documentation of the 2024 nesting season use. As of last week 566 existing boxes have been checked and 26 new boxes installed, some of which are replacements of old worn-out boxes. Of the checked boxes, 252 were used by wood ducks, with 145 boxes hatching out 1620 ducklings. Two boxes were found with honeybees that have since been transferred to a beekeeper. We also had 78 boxes that were used by screech owls, plus 2 boxes with Saw Whet Owls. During these spring checks we recaptured 10 Screech Owls that were previously banded and captured 6 Screech Owls plus 2 Saw Whet Owls that we banded. We hope to finish the remaining ~60 boxes on the Yakima River by boat before the first of April. Dale and John are scheduled for a display at Libby Middle School STEM Day in mid-April. Banding checks will start in some of the boxes in late April or early May. The photo below shows Nature School students who helped install wood duck nesting boxes the class built at an earlier Nature School session at the Richland Library.



### **Guzzler Maintenance**

March was a very busy month for guzzler work. On March 6 a team comprised of Larry Martin, Robert Gerhard, Bill Watson, and Wade Conant repaired Guzzler 305 near the intersection of SR 397 and Owens Road south of Kennewick. On March 14 Rex Sherburn of Pheasants Forever and Larry Martin looked for and found a way to get repair materials and equipment to Guzzler 220 which is located in the Pepiot and Blanton roads area in Franklin County. Work to relocate Guzzler 220 out of the tumbleweed infested area and install a new pair of rain catchment aprons is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>. McKaden Manderbach of the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Jerry Bloom, Dale Schielke & Larry Martin

replaced Guzzler 342 on March 18. The guzzler had been destroyed by fire. Guzzler 342 is located in far west Benton County, in the McKinley Springs & Farnum roads area.





### **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 submitted via email no later than April 14, 2025 to [rrgcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rrgcsecretary@gmail.com). Contact Mike Estes (509-551-9066) for application forms or more information.

### **Hunter Education Pheasant Hunt Recap by Ron Ruth**

Twenty-eight Hunter Education course graduates participated in the 2025 HE pheasant hunt at Limits Game Farm near Mesa on February 22. Participants started their day shooting clay birds at the Connell Gun Club followed by a safety briefing at Limits. Hunters were split into two groups with the second group arriving at Limits about the time the first group concluded its hunt. While hunters of both groups were at Limits concurrently, Ron Ruth presented a "hunting clinic" and WDFW Enforcement Officer Tom Bolt addressed the group and answered questions. Lunch was provided after the clinic by Limits Game Farm and Pheasants Forever. Approximately 100 people enjoyed Tri-Tip, chicken, and the fixings. The second group of hunters hunted after lunch.

Hunters were paired with mentors and dog handlers and directed to the hunt locations. WDFW provided funds for 100 pheasants that were released for the hunt. All of the hunters got a shot at a bird and most (maybe 65% to 75%) harvested one or more birds.

Special thanks to the sponsors of this year's hunt: Ringold Pheasants Forever Chapter for purchasing and preparing the food; Connell Gun Club for providing the facilities and clay bird thrower; WDFW for providing the funds to purchase the birds and providing guns for those that didn't have one to hunt with; 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; Griggs Department Store in Pasco for the hunting ammunition; and 1<sup>st</sup> Hunt Foundation for their liability coverage. Special thanks to Ashley Reser for helping with the check-in process. Over 25 individuals volunteered this year as either mentors or dog handlers. Several PF volunteers helped with the setting up of the dining hall, did all the cooking, planted the pheasants, and showed the hunters how to clean birds. A very special thanks to Dave and Pam Piovesan of Limits Game Farm for all the help, coordination, use of facilities, and making sure this year's Hunter Education pheasant hunt was a success. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to making this a great event. John Prather and Dave Myers submitted the following photos from the hunt.











### **Introduction to Fishing Class Recap**

Sixteen individuals signed up for the March 1 Introduction to Fishing class in the Grigg's classroom but a large portion did not show up, possibly because it was an absolutely beautiful warm and sunny day. Richard Sharp was the instructor. Richard received assistance from volunteers Maija Greer, Tim Irvin, Dave Meyers, Pete Workman, Silas Clayton, and Bill and Teresa Shott Wiese. Many things were demonstrated, knots were learned and tied, and hook safety was emphasized. One young angler showed particular interest in the knots and in no time was rigging his own outfit! Seeing his face and the others enjoy the class and get excited about fishing makes this event very fulfilling! Thanks

to Richard for planning and presenting the class, to the volunteers who assisted him, and to Ryan from Walleye Anglers Unlimited for setting up the video equipment.

### **Photo of the Month**

There was one contest entry this month. Bill Lambert's winning photo shows Bill and his hunting buddies on a successful snow goose hunt in Walla Walla County on February 25. The photo was taken by Kevin Halazon. Bill donated sixteen snow geese for the Wild Game Dinner. Good job, Bill!



See below for contest rules and please keep those photos coming! All contest submittals will appear on the big screen at the 2026 Wild Game Dinner. Submit entries to [rrgsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rrgsecretary@gmail.com)

**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: Mike Estes [estesm34@gmail.com](mailto:estesm34@gmail.com) or

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

Membership: Karen McNiven – [richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com](mailto:richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com)

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

Website: Brayden Wodtli and Micah Little – [admin@richlandrodandgun.org](mailto:admin@richlandrodandgun.org)

**RRGC Club Upcoming Activities**

KOE Rod Assembly – March 29 at 9:00am, Grigg's Dept. Store in Pasco

Next General Membership Meeting – April 1 at 7:00pm, Richland Public Library

KOE Special Needs Fishing Day – April 11 from 9:00am to 6:00pm, Columbia Park Pond

KOE Kids Fishing Day – April 12 from 7:00am to 5:00pm, Columbia Park Pond

Salmon Summit Fish Release – April 29 and 30, 8:00 to 10:30am, Col. Park East Boat Ramp