



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.

July 2023, Volume 78 No. 7

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 – September 5th, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

Next Board Meeting- July 18th, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room

August Newsletter Contribution Deadline is August 24th.

email: admin@richlandrodandgun.org

Message from the President

Summer is officially here, school is out, and vacation season is underway. Everyone is busy during the summer which is why RRGc suspends general meetings during July and August. Our only gathering during summer will be our annual club picnic on August 1 at Leslie Groves Park. Monthly general meetings resume on September 5. Board meetings will continue to be held monthly throughout the summer on the third Tuesday of each month and there is an open invitation for any and all members to attend.

We are already half way through 2023 and it has been a busy six months. The annual Wild Game Dinner, the Salmon Summit fish release with school students, Kids Outdoor Education (KOE) Fishing Day for kids and persons with special needs, our first Pikeminnow Derby and picnic, and the annual Catfish Challenge and Fish Fry have kept many of us very busy over the past several months. If you didn't participate in these events, you definitely missed out on a lot of fun! The best way to earn value from your RRGc membership is to get as involved as your schedule will allow. Thank you to each and every one of you who helped make each of these events, and other club activities, successful. And an even bigger thank you to those members who chaired, coordinated, facilitated, or arranged an event.

For Marilyn Steele, that requires an extra thank you or two since she somehow finds the energy to coordinate both the Wild Game Dinner and KOE fishing events.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our board members who put in countless hours organizing and spearheading our numerous club committees. Dale Schielke, with tremendous support from John Merk and other volunteers, monitors and maintains more than 500 wood duck nesting boxes plus runs camera feeds of ducklings jumping from the nests after hatching. Larry Martin chairs the Habitat and Youth Activities committees. Larry and Dale both received WDFW ALEA grants again this year to help fund the water cistern (guzzler) and wood duck nest box programs. RRGc is paying the registration for several young adults to attend Youth Conservation Camp on Orcas Island this summer. Dave Myers provided the inspiration and leadership for our first ever Pikeminnow Derby held in conjunction with members of the Columbia Basin Fly Casters. Richard Sharp provides extensive energy to the Catfish Challenge where he demonstrates his ability to both catch and cook the whiskered fish. Rich has also developed a curriculum and recently taught his first Introduction to Fishing Class. Ron Ruth is not a Board Member but is designated a Special Volunteer. Ron is the RRGc Head Hunter Education Instructor and leads a team of instructors teaching HE at the Grigg's classroom plus Ron is also the inspiration behind the Introduction to Firearms class that will be held again on August 12. Although there isn't enough space here to highlight the efforts of all of our board members and volunteers, the service of each and every one is valued and helps RRGc achieve the purposes for which we exist. In spite of all that we do, we could do even more with greater engagement by more members.

We came together last year about this time licking our wounds from the pandemic wondering what the future might hold for us with the changing times. The good news is that we weathered the storm pretty well. Our membership is rebuilding, thanks in part to Bruce Hewitt and others who manned a booth at local sporting stores to get word out to the public about our club. We are happy for Greg and Carla Boeringa who are following their dreams to be closer to family on the west and soggier side of the state but will miss them dearly. Carla was our club secretary and Greg our web master for the past several years. They both were such an instrumental piece of our club who happily volunteered countless hours of their time even through the perilous times we were stuck to Zoom meetings. Ron Moore has assumed the duties of web master and is doing a great job. Mike Estes has agreed to serve as secretary temporarily until a new secretary is seated. Dave Miller, Pete Workman and Monte Kelsey have joined the board and we are thankful for their willingness to serve and for their active involvement. The position of vice president position is still unfilled. It is the first step in eventually becoming the president which has been a very positive and rewarding experience for myself so far during my term. There is also one Trustee vacancy on the board. Would you be willing to fill that vacancy?

In closing, our club is as strong as ever and thanks to the efforts of our dedicated members its future looks healthy and promising. We do, however, need more help. We need more dedicated and involved members who stand behind the ideals mentioned in our pledge to serve on the board and as officers. If you have considered increasing your involvement in

club activities or joining the board, now is the time. Please contact me about coming to one of the board meetings to get a behind the scenes look at what keeps the club running.

Matt Cummings, President

Annual Picnic and Liars Contest – Save the Date

The annual RRGCC potluck picnic will be August 1 at Leslie Groves Park Gazebo #1 in Richland. Dinner will be at 5:00pm. Cost is \$3.00 per person. 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 M through Z, or a dessert if it starts with A through L. (Exception will be made for Dale Schielke if he wants to bring Dutch oven peach cobbler.) 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. We hope to see you there!

Catfish Challenge Results

The Catfish Challenge was another great success this year. The weigh in and picnic on June 24 were hosted by Matt and Connie Cummings at their home on the Yakima River in West Richland. Seven contestants weighed fish, some of which were caught from the Cummings' back yard. Tyler Davis, O.J. Davis, Cheyanne King, Pete Workman, and Larry Martin weighed in by the advertised 3:00pm deadline. Two highly successful fishermen were late to the weigh in because they needed assistance loading and hauling their catch. The "official" winner was Tyler Davis with a big fish of 8.2 pounds and a total weight of 43.7 pounds. The late arrivers were Mike Aldinger and Rich Sharp who caught a combined weight of 316.5 pounds of catfish. WOW! Mike's big fish was 13.0 pounds with a total weight of 155.9 pounds. Rich's big fish was 9.7 pounds with a total weight of 160.6 pounds. Total weight of all catfish caught was 389 pounds. The big fish were smaller this year than last year but the total weight edged last year's weight of 382.4 pounds.

Thanks to Tyler, O.J., Mike, Rich, Ron Moore, and Todd Hennick for cleaning the fish. Rich and Packy Lackey fried and grilled about 35 pounds of catfish for our dinner. Ron Lucas blessed us again with his amazing homemade French fries. Dale Schielke rounded up the plates and utensils for the picnic and made a very tasty Dutch oven cherry dessert. Rich brought some smoked catfish that tasted as good as Sockeye Candy! A special thanks to Connie and Matt for sharing use of their back yard with us again.

2024 Wild Game Dinner

Preparations are already under way for next year's Wild Game Dinner. The dinner will be held on March 23, 2024 in the same building at the Benton County Fairgrounds as this year. Discussions are currently underway with potential program presenters. The dinner this year was a success, but there are always things that stand out both positive and negative. I would like to improve on the negative and repeat the positive. That being said, if you would like to be a part of making 2024 an even bigger success, please provide input and I

will put together a summary to share. Additionally, if you would like to have a more active role please let me know. More meat donors, cooks, and volunteers lightens the load on each of us. Some areas you may want to comment on are the Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Raffle, Food, Bar, Audio and video, speaker. Comments will be shared anonymously. Please send comments to my email or see me at a meeting. Marilyn Steele – momhoops46@gmail.com

Guzzler Repair

The Yakitat fire, now named the Hansen Fire, started on June 13 and burned more than 6,000 acres. The fire burned along the south side on Interstate 82 from east of Prosser to near McBee Grade at Kiona and burned over the crest of the Horse Heaven Hills to the south. Several guzzlers are located within the burned area and will need to be assessed for damage.

Hunter Education

The next Hunter Education class will be a night class from 6:00pm to 9:00pm beginning on Monday, September 4 and ending with range day on Saturday, September 9. The instructors are aware that September 4 is Labor Day but due to scheduling constraints, the class will begin that evening. Register on line at [Hunter education training | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

Introduction to Firearms Class

Ron Ruth announced that the next Introduction to Firearms class will be on August 12 at the Grigg's Hunter Education classroom followed by a visit to the Tri-Cities Metallic Silhouette Association (TCMSA) range in the afternoon. Registration will be limited to about 20 participants. Contact Ron for more information at ronruth.huntered@frontier.com

Wood Duck Project

Wood duck nesting season is nearly over for this year. Three cameras were still active less than ten days ago and there have been several duckling jumps over the past several weeks. A few hens appear to have lost their broods and are sitting on a new nest of eggs. The final hatches are expected in early July.

Photo of the Month

The winning photo for June was taken and submitted by Richard Sharp. The photo is of his wife, LaNae Sharp, with a nice walleye taken on the Columbia River on May 13, 2023.

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@frontier.com

Guzzlers: Larry Martin - larry49martin@gmail.com

Youth Conservation Camp - larry49martin@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

Club Picnic – August 1 at 5:00 p.m., Leslie Groves Park Gazebo #1

Hunter Education (night class) at Griggs Pasco – Week of September 4

Next General Membership Meeting – September 5 at 7:00 p.m., Richland Library