



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 2024, Volume 79 No. 4

Club Website- www.richlandrodandgun.org

Club Facebook- 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 – April 2, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

Next Board Meeting- April 16, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room

May Newsletter Contribution Deadline is April 22.

Email: admin@richlandrodandgun.org

April 2 General Meeting Presentation **7:00pm at the Richland Public Library**

The speaker for our April 2 meeting will be Vernie Cross of Vern's Fishing Experience Guided Sportfishing covering tactics to catch Spring Chinook Salmon. Our opportunities to pursue Springers on local waters this year will be pretty limited so come learn how to improve your chances of success.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Elections were held at our March 5 meeting to elect officers and Trustees to serve from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. Collectively, the officers and Trustees constitute our Board of Directors. Thanks to each of the following for volunteering to lead our organization for the coming year. The officers are President, Richard Sharp; Vice President, Evan Kirkpatrick; Treasurer, Richard Libby; Secretary, Mike Estes; and Immediate Past President, Matt Cummings. The fifteen Trustees are Bruce Hewitt, Tim

Irvin, 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. Many thanks to Connie Cummings and John Merk who have served multiple years on the Board but are “retiring” for this year.

Wild Game Dinner Recap and Quality Trip Winner

Thanks to all the volunteers, meat donors, prize donors, cooks and helpers who helped make our 72nd annual Wild Game Dinner a resounding success. A special **THANK YOU** goes to Marilyn Steele who chaired the event for the tenth consecutive year. Rob Phillips held the attention of the audience and drew many laughs while telling us about the many dogs he has owned and hunted with. Grigg’s Department Store received the first Distinguished Service Award ever presented to a business by RRGC for their strong support to our club over many years. John Prather received the Gardner-Cranston Award and Richard Sharp received a Life Member Award. A knife box set was presented to Marilyn Steele in recognition of her seemingly unending energy in planning and preparing the WGD over the last decade. Dave Myers won the Quality Trip drawing. Dale Schielke was drawn as the alternate but it doesn’t matter because they were partners in the drawing and will be “tripping” together. Many thanks to Ache n’ Arms, Afloat N’ Afield Adventures, Blair’s Fishing, Captain Jack Inions, Flatout Fishing, and Markel Outdoors for donating guided fishing trips for the event. If you missed out on tasting the fantastic Smoked Rock Fish Chowder prepared by Packy Lackey or the tasty Bundt cakes prepared by Paul Kison or any of the other great food, I’m sorry! It was a fun evening.





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 has been changed to an evening class. **Note the date: Immediate action is required to register for this class.** The remaining scheduled classes will also 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](https://www.wa.gov/huntereducation). For more information contact Ron at ronruth.huntered@gmail.com

Introduction to Firearms Class

Ron Ruth announced that the next Introduction to Firearms class will be held on Saturday May 18, 2024 starting at 9:00am in the Grigg's classroom and ending at the TCMSA range in the afternoon. Contact Ron at 509-737-7350 for details.

KOE 2024 Fishing Events and Group Rod Assembly

Please join us on Saturday, **April 6, at 9:00am** at Grigg's Department Store in Pasco to assemble fishing rods for all the participants at 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. 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. Marilyn will have a sign-up sheet at our April 2

meeting for anyone who would prefer to take rods home to assemble rather than attend the group assembly session at Grigg's.



Salmon in the Classroom – Salmon Summit

The young salmon 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 509-946-7738 or sign up on the list that Gene will pass around at our April 2 general meeting.

Donations Received and Given

Ron Ruth reported at the March Board meeting that the Pheasants Forever Ringold Chapter has made a \$1,000 donation to our Hunter Education No Hunter Left Behind program. Mark Kimmel was a gunner at a recent Three Rivers Bird Dog Club dog trial and was able to secure 155 chukars for our Wild Game Dinner. Thank you to Pheasants Forever, Mark, and the RRGV volunteers who helped process the chukars.

Thirteen members of the Jason Lee Elementary Archery Club qualified for the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) national competition in Sandy, Utah on April 26 and 27, 2024. Coach Lyn Leyde and student archer Cyrus Dewolf attended our March BOD meeting. Cyrus read a self-prepared statement and Lyn answered our questions. Estimated cost for entry fees, airfare, lodging, and meals is \$700 per person. The BOD

approved a donation of \$1,500 to assist with the team's expenses. RRGCC has a history with the Jason Lee archers in that we donated fund several years ago to help them purchase equipment to establish the club plus RRGCC members have assisted with several youth archery competitions held in the Tri-Cities.

Memoriam for Alvin Elwood Casebere

Long time RRGCC member Al Casebere passed away unexpectedly on March 6, 2024. Al was a young 80 years old and full of enthusiasm. Al and his wife Barbara helped out most recently at the Lunker Lake kids fishing pond at the Sportsmen Show in January. Al also won a prize in the Liar's Contest at the club picnic last summer. He will be missed. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Barbara and the rest of Al's family.

Welcome to Our New Members

We have several new members to introduce who have joined in the last two months. Please extend a warm welcome to Bill Suhr and Marc Stevenson of Kennewick; Micah Little and Braydon Wodtli of Pasco; Jay Thomas of Benton City; and Terry Christensen and Ryan Jacobs of Richland. Micah and Braydon have already joined our Board of Directors. I expect we will have more new members to introduce next month after approval of applications received at the Wild Game Dinner.

Wood Duck Nest Box Maintenance

Dale Schielke reports that 599 RRGCC nest boxes were cleaned and fitted with new nesting material this spring. Maintenance of the RRGCC nest boxes is complete for this year. Box checks show that 221 of those boxes were used by wood ducks this last season. Dale and helpers provided wood duck presentations at 5 Libby Middle School classes, After School Matters at Eastgate Elementary, and Mid-Columbia Partnership, plus displays at Chief Joe Science Night. A total of 19 new boxes were assembled by youth to replace aging boxes or to add to our inventory. Live streaming from in-box cameras will be added in April and May as hens are found nesting in boxes that are close enough to internet WiFi and power sources. We will be partnering with Delta Waterfowl members to assist with box cleaning and banding as our inventory grows. Additionally, we will be exploring a Kids Duck Day in the fall with other organizations with similar interests in educating youth on wildlife conservation.

Youth Conservation Camps

Larry Martin reported that the 2024 Washington State Youth Conservation Camps at Orcas Island will be **July 21-27** for boys and **July 28-August 3** for girls. Campers must be ages 12 to 16 while at camp. Larry has not received the application packet yet but contact Larry at 509-521-2554 if you know an eligible youth who is interested in attending camp.

RRGC Memorial Scholarship

The deadline for applications is quickly approaching. Several applications have already been received. 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.

Chinook Salmon Decline

At our March meeting we learned from WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist Todd Miller that salmon populations in the Columbia River and along the west coast are generally doing well, with the exception of Chinook salmon whose populations are in decline in many areas from Alaska to California. RRGc member Gary Christensen offered to share a recent (October 2023) research paper that purports to explain why most salmon species are flourishing, the causes for Chinook decline and failing recovery efforts, and the proposed solutions and their costs. The research paper points out that most recovery efforts focus on river habitat being a limiting factor in recovery leading to a push to remove dams on the Snake River. The authors feel this is a misdiagnosis and that recovery may fail even if the dams are removed. The authors blame rising ocean temperatures and competition from protected pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) for food as primary reasons for the decline in Chinook numbers. If you would like to read the entire nine page research paper, send your request via email to rrgcsecretary@gmail.com to receive the .pdf file.

Photo of the Month

Wow, RRGc members do take photos! More than 50 photos were submitted following the announcement at our March general meeting that photos were needed for the slide show for the Wild Game Dinner. No vote was taken to determine a winner this month but all of the photos that were submitted were included in the slide show. Thanks to everyone who shared their photos. Please keep submitting your photos throughout the year.

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 2025: 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: Ron Moore – richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com
Scholarship: Mike Estes - estesm34@gmail.com
Website: Ron Moore – admin@richlandrodandgun.org

RRGC Club Upcoming Activities

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
Introduction to Firearms Class – May 18, 9:00am, Grigg’s in Pasco