



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.

October 2023, Volume 78 No. 10

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 – October 3rd, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

Next Board Meeting- October 17, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room

November Newsletter Contribution Deadline is October 22nd.

email: admin@richlandrodandgun.org

October 3rd General Meeting Presentation

7:00pm at the Richland Public Library

The presenter for our October meeting will be Dr. Robert Margulies speaking on the mental, emotional, and physiologic needs for survival. Dr. Margulies is the retired Medical Director of the Kadlec Emergency Department and has 54 years of emergency medicine experience in civilian, military, police, and austere environments. He teaches trauma management and has been a military survival trainer. Bob is also a long time RRG member who enjoys hunting and fishing and has taught First Aid and survival for our Hunter Education classes. This program presents a great learning opportunity for each and all of us before we head afield this fall.

Salmon in the Classroom

Educational materials and aquarium supplies for the Salmon in the Classroom program were picked up at the Benton Conservation District (BCD) office in Kennewick and

delivered to teachers at 36 local schools by RRGc volunteers on September 18. Supplies will be delivered to 18 additional schools in Benton County at a later date. Fertilized salmon eggs will also be delivered for the fish tanks later this fall. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife started Salmon in the Classroom in 1992. WDFW continued the program through 2002 when budget cuts led to the decision to limit the State's participation to issuing permits and supplying salmon eggs. BCD and RRGc became involved with the program in 1998 and the first Salmon Summit for students to gather to release their fish was held in 2003. Through this program, students can hatch salmon eggs at school, learn about salmon lifecycle and habitat and learn how to test water quality. The hands-on experience of raising fish helps students realize that salmon are one of the many benefits of our eastern Washington rivers. Classroom lessons on salmon anatomy and lifecycle compliment science and math, while historic and cultural lessons about salmon relate to Washington state history, social studies and geography. About 3,300 fourth and fifth grade students get to participate in person each spring at the Salmon Summit where the fish they raised are released. An additional 3,600 students participate in the Salmon Summit on line. PNNL and NOAA implant some of the fish with a passive tag, known as a PIT tag, that has a unique code that allows researchers to identify fish as they pass detection equipment during their downstream migration. Students are excited to track the progress of fish they raised during the migration. The program in Benton County has grown from 5 classes in 2003 to 54 tanks and 60 classes this year. RRGc has donated in excess of \$15,000 to BCD in support of the program over the past two decades. Gene Van Liew has been the RRGc champion for this program since the beginning and has mustered volunteers to deliver supplies and eggs to the schools every fall and to assist students with the release of their fish at the Salmon Summit each spring, Thank you Gene!

Meat Donations Needed for the Wild Game Dinner

If you are successful while fishing or hunting, please consider sharing some of your bounty for the Wild Game Dinner on March 23, 2024. We have storage facilities available so please consider donating fish, fowl, or game. Each package must be tagged with the donor's name, WILD ID number, species and cut of meat, plus the date and location taken. (Ground meat cannot be accepted.) Please contact Marilyn Steele 509-392-2128 or John Prather 509-521-1593 to coordinate a time and location for delivery. It takes a lot of meat to feed 300 people, so your generosity is appreciated!

Hunter Education

The last Hunter Education class for 2023 was held the week of September 4 through 9 at Griggs in Pasco and at the TCMSA range on Saturday. There were 19 students ranging in age from 10 years to 41 years. All 19 students passed both the range course and the exam. Ron Ruth, Chief Instructor, said they had a very exciting class when the students learned they had all passed the class. Their postcards from WDFW should be arriving around September 15. The student then can take the postcards and go get their hunting license. Ron had several instructors and volunteers helping with this class. They included John Drewrey, Greg Herrin, Pete Workman, John Prather, Jack Pickard, Dave Myers, and Larry Martin. The next Hunter Education class will be next year during spring break for the schools.

Guzzler Repair

The Hansen Fire started on June 13 and burned more than 6,000 acres along the south side of Interstate 82 from Gibbon Road east of Prosser to east of McBee Grade at Kiona and burned over the crest of the Horse Heaven Hills to the south. Larry Martin has identified several guzzlers located within the burned area that sustained damage. The water tank for Guzzler #9 near Chandler Butte was severely damaged. On September 27 Jerry Bloom, Tom Klein, Doug Schuetze, and Larry dug out an unused tank from another location and will install it for Guzzler #9 the week of October 2. The rain catchment for the unused tank will be repaired and installed on Guzzler #324 to correct fire damage to that unit. Repairs to the fire damaged guzzlers will continue into next spring. If you would like to volunteer to help with the repairs, contact Larry at 509-521-2554.

Crop Harvesting Practices at McNary NWR

An RRG member briefed the RRG Board on August 15 about crop cutting at McNary National Wildlife Refuge during waterfowl season last year that he felt could have put hunters at jeopardy of being cited under federal regulations that prohibit hunting within the zone of influence of the cut crops. The Board approved a motion that RRG opposes the mowing of grain crops on National Wildlife Refuges prior to the close of the migratory bird hunting seasons. Follow up discussions were held with the concerned member and Steve Kahl, project leader for the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex that includes McNary NWR. Mike Estes received an email message from Mr. Kahl dated August 28 that said "I want to let you and the Richland Rod and Gun Club know that henceforth the refuge will not mow the cornfields next to our headquarters during the waterfowl season except during severe winter weather which causes a mortality risk to waterfowl. The refuge will undertake a process with habitat managers, wildlife biologists, farmers, soil scientists, law enforcement, and others to examine alternative crops to serve as cold-weather waterfowl food." The RRG Board considers the matter to be resolved.

New Members

Several new members have joined RRG over the past few months. In June the Board approved individual memberships for Raymond Williams of Pasco and William Dvorak of Richland. In July, memberships were approved for Tyler Davis (one year family), Oscar Davis (one year individual) and Evan Kirkpatrick (three year individual). In September, Tyler Miller of Pasco submitted his application for a one year single membership during the Board meeting and his application was approved that evening. Please welcome these new members and find an opportunity to get to know them. Evan Kirkpatrick expressed an almost immediate interest to get involved and was elected by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy on the Board until elections at the next RRG annual meeting in March 2024. Thank you Evan!

Photo of the Month

The winning photo for September was submitted by Ron Ruth showing Hunter Education students and instructors in a group photo at the TCMSA range on September 9.



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

Membership: Connie Cummings -

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

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