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

MAY 2015

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Club Website- <http://rrgclub.tripod.com/clubhome>

Club Facebook Site – [www.Facebook.com/RichlandrodandGunClub](http://www.Facebook.com/RichlandrodandGunClub)

Northwest Game Recipes Web Site – [www.northwestgamerecipes.com](http://www.northwestgamerecipes.com)

2015-2016 Officers

Mike Estes, Pres. 582-2212 Richard Sharp, Vice Pres. 586-4790

Richard Libby, Treas. 947-0498 Frank Scopa, Sec. 375-4748

**MEETINGS AND DEADLINES**

MAY GENERAL MEETING-7 pm, Tuesday May 5, Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland

BOARD MEETING—7 pm, Tuesday, May 19, Hunter Education Facility at Griggs in Pasco

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE-May 21, Call Frank Scopa at 375-4748 or secretary.rrgc@yahoo.com

**MAY MEETING:** Richard Sharp, the guest speaker will be Adam Geddes of Sportsman’s Warehouse. Adam’s topic will be Mid-Columbia River sockeye salmon fishing techniques. He will also discuss anchoring methods and anchoring etiquette.

**APRIL MEETING RECAP:** Frank Scopa

There were a total of 54 people present at the April Meeting. 53 were members of RRGC and 1 was a visitor that attended his first meeting. Mike Estes brought the meeting to order. The pledge was given and Mr. Estes then requested that visitors identify themselves in order for them to receive their complimentary raffle tickets. The visitor was directed to Jennifer Gardner for a membership application. Mr. Estes informed the membership that a 25 year RRGC Belt Buckle would be presented to Mr. Rocky Ross for his 25 years of RRGC membership since he was unable to attend the Wild Game Dinner. The belt buckle was presented. Mr. Estes reminded all present that there had been a WDFW Salmon Meeting held and the public was asked for their input. Several RRGC members attended.

Larry Martin addressed the conservation effort as regarding the guzzlers/cisterns. He needs additional volunteers in order to maintain, refurbish and replace the existing guzzlers. Please contact Larry at 509 521 2554 (Cell) if you are able to volunteer. On Tuesday, April 7, 2015 Larry found a way to drive a vehicle to within .10 mile of cistern 18 and was able to deliver T-Posts to the job site in preparation for Thursday April 9 fence repair. Thursday, April 9, 2015 five club members Steve Allan, Howard Gardner, Dave Gerdes, Larry Martin, Ron Ruth and nonmember volunteer Larry Noggles repaired the burned fence surrounding cistern 18. This cistern is located in the Horse Heaven hills between Kiona and Prosser near Gibbon road. Steel posts were used to replace the burned out wood posts. The cistern is located on the edge of a small ravine so it was a bit challenging refurbishing the barbed wire fence. Larry has scheduled another guzzler/cistern repair for the 30th of April. If you can volunteer, please contact Larry at 509 545 9647. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the general meeting.

Gene Van Liew addressed the upcoming Kids Fishing Pond. There will be a need for volunteers on both Friday, the 8th of May and Saturday, the 9th of May. As per previous years, volunteers are needed for pond duty and assembling fishing rods. Marilyn Steele will be in charge of the RRGC effort. There are currently 1175 fishing rods that have been picked up for assembly. Another 125 fishing rods remain to be assembled. Along these lines, Dale Schielke needs volunteers on the 29th of April at Ringold to tag fish for the tagged fish prizes for the KOE event. The effort should be completed in three to four hours. Please contact Gene Van Liew at 509 946 7738 in order to volunteer at the Kids’ Fishing Pond and Dale Schielke at 509 375 0183 to volunteer for the fish tagging. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the general meeting.

Larry Martin reminded the membership that RRGC normally sponsors six teenagers for the Washington State Youth Conservation Camp. The children must be a minimum of 12 years of age. It is the parents’ responsibility to get the children to the Anacortes Ferry Crossing. The girls’ camp will be from July 12th to July 18th and the boys’ camp will be from the 19th of July to the 25th of July. At the present time, one teenager has requested sponsorship. We have four more positions available.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Paul Hoffarth of WDFW talked about 2014 Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead returns and the 2015 forecasts. It is forecasted that 232,000 springer chinook will return with a 15% to 20% allowable harvest. The season will open between April 19th and April 23rd. Spring chinook on the Yakima River can be caught with barbless hooks. The standard restrictios for keeping wild chinook vs. hatchery chinook remains in place. There is a reintroduction of Cle Elum sockeye. These are the first sockeye born and raised in the Cle Elum reservoir in over 100 years. The summer steelhead run is projected to be approximately 312,000 fish. WDFW now sponsors a website that can be accessed by the public. The website addresses warm water locations and species.

James Castillo, a competitor on the Bass Master Fishing Tournament Tour gave a great presentation on spring tactics for bass. His personal best for a large mouth bass was 8 pounds, 5 ounces caught at Moses Lake. James stressed that water temperatures for spring fishing are the most important factor to monitor. He stated that the temperature of top three feet of water will trigger the spawn. Warm shallow water that has a stable depth, a firm bottom of silt, sand or gravel is paramount for bass to spawn. However, a spawning location must be adjacent to structure and cover. Cover can also be considered to be shade. When the water temperature hits 50 degrees, the bass will start moving up into shallower water. At 55 degrees, the bass will move to the pre-spawn areas and when the water is in the 58 to 62 degrees, the spawn will occur. The spawn will normally occur at a depth of 5 feet or less. James uses a heavy action rod with 60 pound braid or 20 pound fluorocarbon line so there is no stretch in the line. He recommends using red rattletraps for pre and post spawn fishing or loud buzzbait surface lures. He also recommends Diawa reels but is not sponsored by Diawa.

**MIGHTY MITE GATHERING:** Richard Sharp informed the membership that the RRGC Mighty-Mite Fishing Gathering would be on the 16th of May at the Columbia Point Marina Gazebo #1 (closest to boat launch). Fishing starts in the morning on all local waters. The Potluck dinner starts at 3:00pm. All participants will be requested to bring their Mighty Mite catch or any catch for the fish fry! The Potluck Extras are as follows, if the first letter of your last name starts A through H, please bring a main dish. If your last name starts I through P, please bring a dessert. If your name starts Q through Z, please bring a salad. Richard expects there to be fun, food, laughs and bragging rights. This is a RRGC members’ only event. The Moonlight Catfish Derby is still scheduled to start the evening of June 19th and will conclude at the 2:00PM weigh-in on June 20th. More details to follow.

**WOOD DUCK NESTING BOXES:** Dale Schielke reported the following as regarding the Wood Duck Nesting Boxes. Annual maintenance of 407 boxes is complete!  We are now focused on surveying boxes to band hens and find possible nests that are candidates for mounting the club’s in-box cameras that provide live streaming video.  We currently have four active nests with cameras in various stages of incubation.  The easiest link to find all four camera sites is [www.rrgcwoodducks.org](http://www.rrgcwoodducks.org) then click on the **In-box Cameras** tab.  You can also follow the RRGC Facebook page for announcements of developments.  We will move the camera to other boxes with nesting activity when possible once the hatch and jump is complete.  We would like to thank Mike Hall at Ice Harbor Brewery for donating funds to purchase an additional High Definition camera that will improve picture quality.  So far 62 boxes have been checked, 21 show signs of nesting activity, 7 wood duck hens were captured and banded, and 3 hens were captured with existing bands from previous years using the same box.

**BULLETIN HELP: Frank Scopa**

If you are receiving this bulletin via U.S. Mail and you have an email account, please send an e-mail to Frank Scopa at secretary.rrgc@yahoo.com with your email address. We should be current as to mailing addresses for the hard copies. There are still 60 members receiving hard copies via the US Mail. New members will be added as the information is received. If you are receiving both a hard copy and an e-mail copy, please let me know.

**NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP:** Jennifer Gardner continues as the Membership Chair. She can be contacted at 509-981-9366 (Spokane number). New members are Brian Musgrave of Pasco, Fred Riedel of Pasco, Daniel and Sherry Dengate of Kennewick and Bill Madison of Selah. Please extend them a welcome when you meet them at the general meeting. There are a number of members who have not renewed. They will be given a notice soon that they either renew or we will have to purge them from our roles.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**  Richard Libby presented the Treasurer’s Report for March. The report was approved by the Board of Directors at the Board Meeting held on April 21st. The annual audit will be conducted this spring as required by the RRGC Bylaws. Those results will be made to the general membership.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** May 19th, 7:00PM, Griggs Hunters’ Education Room, Pasco. All RR&GC members are invited to attend.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** May 5th, at the Richland Public Library at 7:00 PM.

**WILD GAME DINNER:** The WGD was held on the 28th of March at the Columbia River Trading and Catering Company Banquet Room at the Shiloh Inn. There were approximately 240 attendees. The event was successful and well received by those that attended. The effort for food preparation started with the individuals that donated elk, venison, pheasant, duck, trout, salmon, walleye, tuna and perch. Dave Myers was the Dinner Committee Chairman. There were 28 cooks and kitchen helpers that started at 8:00 AM Saturday morning and continued through the end of the dinner that ended approximately 9:00 PM. The menu consisted of all wild game entrees, was extremely well prepared and as usual was delicious.

The guest speaker was Rhettman Mullis Jr., PhD. Dr. Mullis spoke on his scientific methods for Bigfoot investigation. Dr. Mullis has joined with other research professionals and scientists in their effort to identify and confirm the existence of Sasquatch.

Per Paul Kison, Raffle/Door Prize Chairman, reported that there were fifty door prizes, twelve raffle prizes and twenty-five silent auction items.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to the following individuals for their support and efforts of our stated goals. The uniqueness of this year’s recipients is that each of the recipients is not a member of RRGC. These distinguished individuals are Paul Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fisheries Biologist, Mike Erickson, WDFW Ringold Fish Hatchery Manager and John Powell, Manager of the Kennewick Sportsman’s Warehouse. Their contributions parallel what it is that we try to accomplish as an organization. Thank you for your support and efforts. RRGC long time member Doug Schuetze was presented with a RRGC belt buckle for twenty-five years of membership. The Quality Trip was won by former RRGC President Jeff Gardner. The alternate winner is Leon Kollman.

An editorial comment: The food that was prepared this year was outstanding. It seems hard to believe that the main entrees can get any better but it does year by year. To those that the donated meat, to those that help prepare with care, to those that shared their culinary skills, thank you for sharing your talents and recipes. This is a meal that I am truly thankful for every year and an effort to which I am very proud to be associated.

**RAFFLE RESULTS:** The ten raffle gifts were won by the following. I did not record who won the .22 caliber cleaning kit so that result is not available.

Rod Rack – Ben Burdett,

Electronic Hearing Protection – Frank Scopa,

Bass Rod and Lures – Dianna Seuberich,

.22 Cal Cleaning Kit - ?,

Catfish Rod – Clarence Corriveau,

Trout Rod and Tackle – Chris Mosher,

Worm Box – Dianna Seuberich,

Ball Cap – Jim Sullivan,

10 Tied Salmon Lures – Brian Musgrave,

Mystery Box (Racquet Balls) – Joe Castillo

**LESSONS LEARNED MEETING FROM THE WILD GAME DINNER:** There will be a meeting as regarding the Wild Game Dinner "lessons learned" on Wednesday, the 29th of April at the Griggs' Hunters Education Room at 7:00PM.  This meeting is to establish what could be improved upon or perhaps included in next year's WGD.  It is requested that all members participate in the effort.  At the present time, the same 25 to 30 members are the ones actively involved and it would be beneficial to hear the ideas of other members.  Perhaps there are better ways of putting on the dinner, the raffles, the silent auctions the guest speaker presentation, etc. and your ideas need to be heard.  Another reason for the meeting is to pass on institutional knowledge to younger members so that this great tradition can be carried on. This corrects the e-mail that stated the meeting would be on the 30th of April.

**WANT ADS:**

Dave Piovesan of Limits Game Farm has announced that he will have pheasant chicks available for purchase starting in mid-May through mid-June. Please call Dave at 509 265 4578 for prices and availability. Dave expects the first hatch to occur on or about the 24th of April.

Kirby Hammond is in need of black powder. If you have black powder to sell or give away please contact him at 509 713 4668 cell.

**RICHLAND ROD AND GUN CLUB**

 **PO BOX 337**

 **RICHLAND WA 99352-0337**

 **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**