



# **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.

November 2024, Volume 79 No. 11

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
Richard Sharp	Evan Kirkpatrick	Mike Estes	Ron Moore
(509) 551-6785	(414) 534-2817	(509) 551-9066	(509) 521-4528

## **MEETINGS AND DEADLINES**

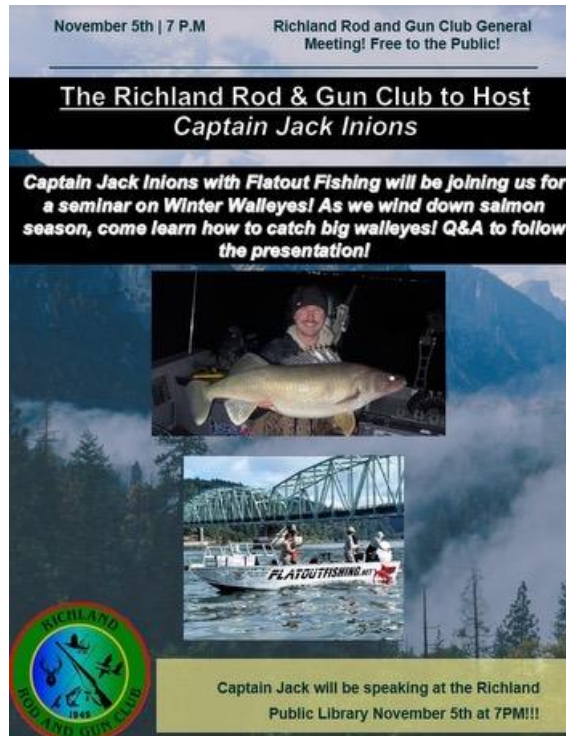
Next General Meeting – November 5, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library  
Next Board Meeting- November 19, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room  
December Newsletter Contribution Deadline is November 22.

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

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## **November 5 General Membership Meeting**

If your freezer isn't already full of fish, this program is an opportunity to learn how to fill it. Captain Jack Inions has previously presented to us on spring walleye fishing but this is a chance to fit the pieces together on what changes in your approach need to occur to continue to be a successful walleye fisherman as we move into the colder weather months.



### **Wild Game Dinner Meat Donations and Prizes Needed**

March 22, 2025 is getting closer each day. The 73<sup>rd</sup> annual Wild Game Dinner will be upon us sooner than we think and we need everyone's help to prepare. A kick-off organizing and planning meeting for cooks, chefs, kitchen workers and helpers is scheduled for **Friday, December 6 at 6:00pm** at Marilyn Steele's home, 41530 S. Morton Road in Kennewick. There will be food for attendees. Marilyn likes to use us to test new potential recipes for the dinner. Please plan to attend! No experience required.

We need to start collecting prizes and meat for the dinner NOW. If you are a hunter or fisherman, please consider donating a portion of your harvest for the dinner. John Prather already has a freezer turned on to accept any meat that you might not have room to store. 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. Copies of our prize solicitation letter will be available at the November 5 general membership meeting that you can give to potential donors that explains our nonprofit status and the reasons for the solicitation. Please think about how you can contribute to and be involved in the Wild Game Dinner. Please contact John Prather (509-521-1593) for more information about meat and prize donations or Marilyn Steele (509-392-2128) about helping with the dinner preparations.

### **Garden Club Donations Received**

Habitat committee chair Larry Martin announced that donations have been received this month from the Basin Bloomers Garden Club (\$400) and the Garden Genies Garden Club (\$1,000) in support of the RRGc guzzler program. Both garden clubs donated similar amounts to the program about this time last year. We truly appreciate their continuing support!

### **Board of Directors Meeting Notes**

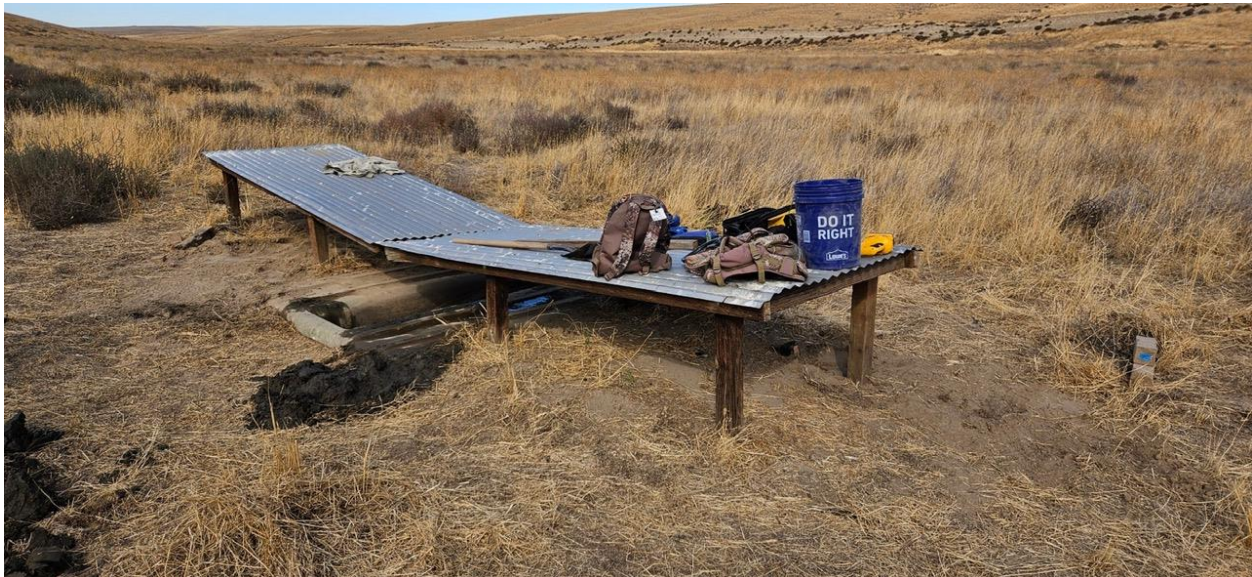
Katie Maikis, USFWS Deputy Project Leader for the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex attended our October 17 Board meeting to discuss upcoming updates to the management plans for the McNary and Umatilla NWRs and the farming agreements for those refuges.

Ms. Maikis said the refuge management plans were last updated in 2007 and are supposed to be updated every 15 years. She said that a total of 1,800 acres are farmed at McNary and Umatilla refuges. All farming is done under cooperative agreements with private parties. There are two farmers at McNary, one at Umatilla in Oregon, and one at the Whitcomb Unit of Umatilla in Washington. An issue that needs to be dealt with is when to harvest the USFWS share of crops that are left standing for north bound migrating waterfowl at the end of the hunting season. The grain crops used to be cut immediately following the close of waterfowl season in late January but the recent addition of a late Snow goose season creates an issue that would delay cutting the fields until late February or early March. All of the grain is left for the birds in some fields in contrast to normal agricultural practices where most of the grain is collected as a crop by the farmer. If there is an open waterfowl hunting season and all the grain is left on the ground it could lead to allegations of baiting and hunters could be charged with hunting within the zone of influence of bait. There were 90,000 Snow geese at McNary last year. Most are believed to migrate from Wrangell Island, Alaska.

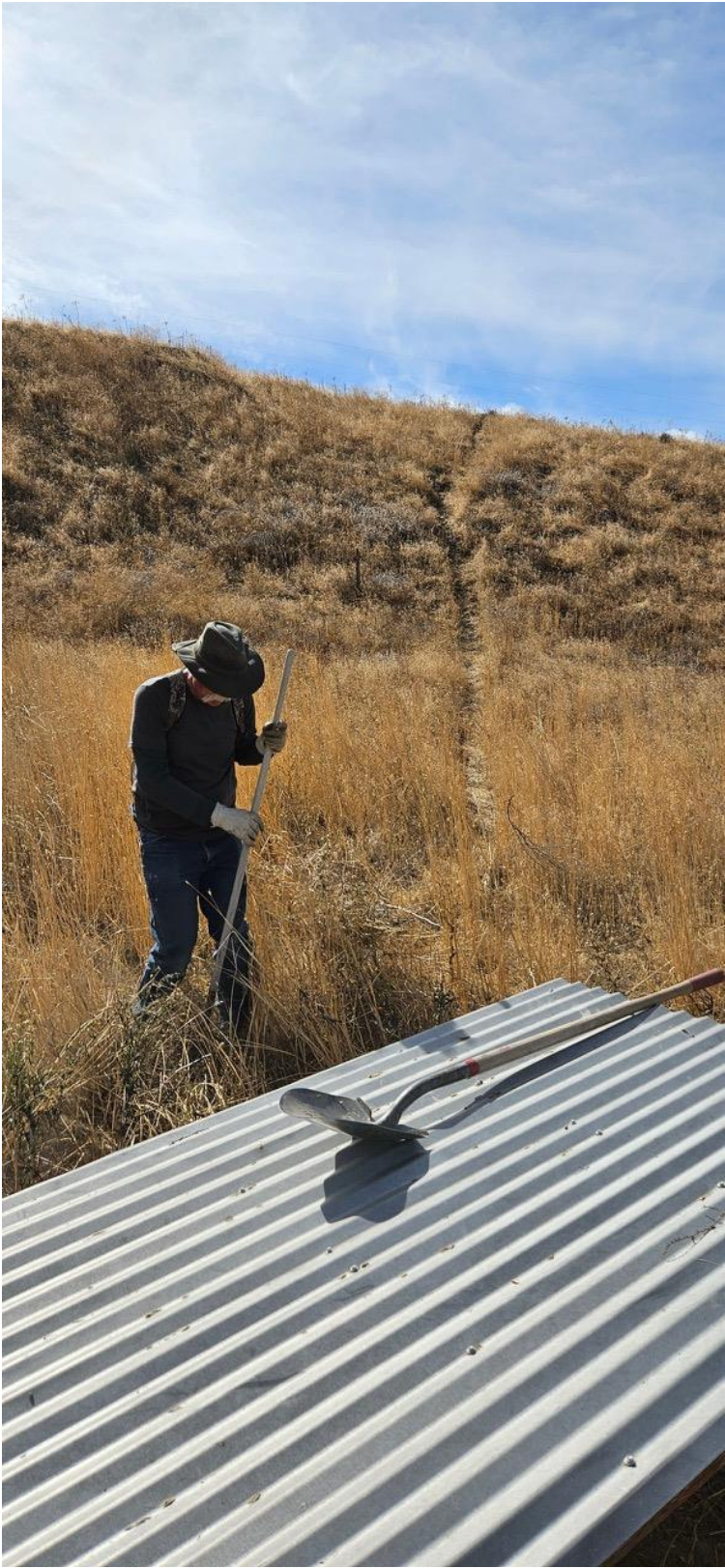
Farmers (Cooperators) get 60% of the crops and 40% are left for the birds. A request for proposals is issued every 5 to 10 years for farming activities. Current farming agreements for McNary, Umatilla, and the Whitcomb unit expire January, 2025. Crop selection and use of herbicides and pesticides have to be approved by USFWS. USFWS owns the irrigation pumps and the cost of maintenance is going up. The farmers own the irrigation circles and sometimes assist USFWS with the cost of pump maintenance or replacement. McNary is one of a few places in the Basin where sweet corn is available to waterfowl because many farmers have switched to field corn for livestock feed. MCRNWR Complex has assembled an advisory group that includes WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager Kyle Spragens, representatives for the local county conservation districts, and others to provide input on crop selection and farming practices in a process USFWS calls structured decision making. USFWS staff doesn't do any farming and currently has only one equipment operator to cover four refuges (McNary, Umatilla, Cold Springs, and McKay). Their staff of 14 is currently down to 8. RRGc offered support and suggestions and invited Ms. Maikis to speak at an RRGc general membership meeting within the next few months. Please think about what changes you might suggest to improve conditions at these local refuges so the opportunity to provide input is not wasted when USFWS asks for suggestions.

## Guzzler Repair

Larry Martin reports that on September 21 Blaine Schwartz cleaned guzzler 5 off McBee Grade Road near Benton City. On September 25 Larry cleaned and made minor repairs to guzzler 221 but realized he would need to return with help to clean mud under tank top. Larry also fiberglass repaired a few small holes in a guzzler tank stored at Windmill Ranch WDFW near Basin City. On September 30 Mark Kerns, Jay Thomas and Larry returned to guzzler 221 and were able to finish cleaning. They also repaired and cleaned guzzler 222 and cleaned guzzler 223. All three guzzler ramps were completely filled with dirt due to badger activity. These guzzlers are about 10 miles east of Mesa on the Dougherty Ranch.



Note the well used game trail leading to this guzzler. Critters use this water source a lot.



### **Next Hunter Education Class - March 2025**

Chief Instructor Ron Ruth reports that the next Hunter Education class will begin on Monday March 31, 2025. It will be an evening class held at Grigg's Department Store in Pasco. The HE pheasant hunt at Limits Game Farm will be on February 22, 2025. Ron said he has already informed Merle Shuyler that he will run the pellet range at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show at TRAC on January 24-26, 2025. Ron shared that Rick Conant is in training to become a new instructor on the HE team. Our thanks to Ron, Rick, and the other instructors!

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Inspections - Mike Estes**

Clean, Drain, Dry. It is the mantra for wildlife departments throughout the USA and Canada to deter the spread of invasive aquatic plants and critters across the country by boats being hauled from one body of water to another. Quagga and Zebra mussels, water hyacinth, hydrilla, and Egeria densa (Anacharis, a popular aquarium plant native to South America and naturalized in some parts of the USA) are some of the nuisance species that can be accidentally transported by recreational boaters when caught in propellers or intakes, hidden in water in live wells, or attached to hulls. Mussel eggs and some plant seeds are too small to be readily noticeable so what appears to be clean may not be.

On a recent duck hunt to Alberta, Canada, Bill Madison and I encountered boat inspection stations in each state and province on our trip. Many of the stations were located near truck weigh stations or rest areas, but not all. Be vigilant because inspection station signs are not always highly visible on unfamiliar highways due to construction or heavy traffic. If you miss the entrance to an inspection station, turn around as soon as possible. In Canada we were told that not stopping at an inspection station would result in us being chased down by the RCMP and a \$1,000 fine. The signs typically say All Boats Must Stop. That includes canoes, kayaks, and the small sneak boats that we were towing.

While one inspector was talking to us, another person was usually inspecting the boats. Failure to remove a drain plug in Alberta can result in a \$1,400 fine. (Our little boats do not have drain plugs so my favorite joke was to start the conversation with "I think I may have forgotten to remove the drain plug", which sent the inspector looking. The expectation is that all water is drained including from the lower outboard unit, bilge, live-well, buckets, etc. and that all debris inside and outside the boat and on the boat trailer is removed. If possible, clean your boat at or near the boat ramp when you leave a body of water. We emptied our boats, flipped them upside down, sponged them out, and did our own inspection before heading home from Alberta so we had no problems at the check stations there or in British Columbia, Idaho, or Washington. We were even given some mementos at the check stations (shown in the photo below) but be warned that these people are serious about the purpose of their work so be prepared.





**Photo of the Month**

There were two contest entries this month. The winning photo was submitted by Micah Little of Micah with a very nice 25 pound Chinook salmon caught on the Yakima River on October 11. The photo was taken by Evan Kirkpatrick.





The other entry was a photo taken by Mike Estes of sunrise on October 6 over Chip Lake in central Alberta, Canada.



See below for contest rules and please keep those photos coming! All contest submittals will appear on the big screen at the Wild Game Dinner in March.

**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](mailto:e.van-liew@hotmail.com)

Wild Game Dinner 2025: Marilyn Steele – [momhoops46@gmail.com](mailto:momhoops46@gmail.com)

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: Ron Moore – [admin@richlandrodandgun.org](mailto:admin@richlandrodandgun.org)

**RRGC Club Upcoming Activities**

Next General Membership Meeting –November 5 at 7:00pm, Richland Public Library

WGD Planning Meeting – December 6 at 6:00pm, 41530 S. Morton Road in Kennewick

Tri-City Sportsmen Show - January 24-26, 2025 at TRAC in Pasco

HE Pheasant Hunt – February 22, 2025 – Limits Game Farm, Mesa

Wild Game Dinner – March 22, 2025, Benton County Fairgrounds Building 4, Kennewick