



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

P.O. BOX 431
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
www.shongum.org
Monthly Newsletter
2025.Vol.:XLII.Issue:VIII

Member:
NRA: #CO-469
CMP: 015111
ANRPC
ATA
USPSA/IPSC
NJSTA

20 August 2025

7:30 PM

Officers

President:

Rich Gajda 908-892-5422

Vice President:

John Gumann 973-933-2764

Treasurer:

Mike Fortunato 973-927-3088

Secretary:

Phil Engert 908-309-6676

Shotgun:

Don Mercovich 908-319-4478

Rifle:

Bill Murphy 973-713-1600

Pistol:

Jim Owings 973-383-3208

Membership:

Greg Forte 201-376-0182

Range Safety:

Gregory Lynch 908-619-9601

Events, Good and Welfare:

Robert Miranda 908-798-0315

Operations:

Wayne Jarvis 908-256-1588

Hunting & Archery:

Tom Hill 908-637-4665

NRA Training:

Adam Mauer 973-255-0018

Immediate Past-President:

John Gumann 973-933-2764

Committee Chairpersons

Cowboy Action:

John Seal 973-601-0397

USPSA/IPSC:

Ron Gumann 973-478-7018

Pistol League:

Jim Owings 973-383-3208

Woman's League:

Elizabeth Mackee 973-303-3207

By Laws:

Pete Hefferan 973-702-0904

Newsletter Editor:

Phil Engert 908-309-6676

Juniors:

Bill Murphy 973-713-1600

Black Powder:

Steve Serna 973-601-3779

Phone Numbers

Clubhouse: 908-637-9813

Vice President John Gumann started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He then led our club in a moment of silence for all of our departed members. John also reminded those in attendance, that our meetings are governed by Roberts Rules of Order; and that only regular members may vote or present motions

The minutes for the July meeting were deemed to be correct by the attending membership.

Officers & Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Mike Fortunato read the Treasurer's Report aloud:

Bank Balance (as of July 16, 2025): \$34,225.60

Receipts: \$20,571.19

Disbursements: \$26,859.91

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : (\$6,288.72))

Bank Balance (as of June 18, 2025) : \$27,936.88

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$59,018.68

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of Aug 20, 2025) : \$164,723.68

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of June 30, 2025) : \$7,089.25

President—Rich Gajda Not Attending.

Vice President—John Gumann No report.

Secretary – Phil Engert reminded the membership to contact him if you have any difficulties with your electronic access cards to the clubhouse.

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy reported the next High Power rifle match will be Sunday, August 24th.

High power is the 4th Sunday of the month. Please arrive by 9:30 for sign in. The match starts at 10:00. Ends 11:30 – 11:45. Bring something to lay on concrete is rough. Even a light recoiling rifle will cut you up. Remember to bring Eye protection, Ear protection, Chamber flag/Open bolt indicator, 50 rounds for match, plus sighters. Spotting scope is helpful. (Very Helpful). Sling is very helpful. \$7 members \$10 non-members.

Pistol – Jim Owings reminded the membership the Empty Chamber Indicators are required for every gun that is exposed on the firing line. He sells them for \$1 each at this meeting, and you can also buy them from the vending machine in the clubhouse.

Jim also reminded everyone that the 100 yard target frame drawing in the Range Rules is only to be used when shooting at 100 yards. If shooting at a shorter distance the target frame legs will have to be taller than on the 100 yard frame. As target gets closer to the shooter, the frame must continue to be taller so that the bullets will go through the bullseye and into the impact area of the berm. The closer the distance the taller the target frame must be.

He also reminded that at this time of year with the Sunset coming earlier, that you must stop shooting 30 minutes before sunset. Sunset times are posted in the clubhouse.

Jim reminded everyone that if you are shooting aluminum or steel cased cartridges on the Indoor Range, that it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to sort and dispose of them SEPARATELY. There are 2 different cans to receive BRASS—or- STEEL/ALUMINUM cases; and it is very difficult to separate the cases once mixed!

Pistol League – Nick Dewar

The Pistol League shooting Programs are now shown on the Website under Activities, Pistol League, icon Upcoming Events. We recently completed a Periodic Cleaning of the Indoor Range and would like to share with you what is involved in our Periodic Cleaning. The Protocols are as follow:

1. Turn on the Ventilation System.
2. Remove all furniture from the Range and put it outside the side exit door where the table tops are washed.
3. Remove all lead from the Bullet Trap.
4. HEPA vacuum the the entire floor before washing.
5. Wash the floor.
6. Rinse the floor with clean water.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6
8. Clean all of the overhead baffles
9. Clean all of the heat vents on the back wall of the Range
- 10 Replace all of the furniture in the Range
- 11 Turn off the Ventilation System.

Additionally, the entire Indoor Range is HEPA vacuumed every Friday morning.

SAFETY ITEM: Empty Chamber Indicators (ECIs) are required on all uncased firearms on the shooting benches and they must be pointed down range.

NEW MEMBERS: We continue to extend an open invitation to club members to join us on Tuesday nights. Please call Tom Stapleton at 908-852-3901 for information on how to become a League Member. We welcome a new shooter to the League. Brian joined us on Tuesday, August 19, 2025. Welcome Brian

Submitted 08/20/25 by Tom Stapleton
Reported 08/20/25 by Nick Dewar

Events—Bob Miranda. John Gumann read Bob Miranda's report. Our annual picnic is on Saturday, September 27. All ranges will be closed. More details to follow. Be sure to check your email and the SSA website to sign up early.

Don't forget to take advantage of our summer-time Friday night trap shooting, which starts at 7pm.

As always, please check the SSA calendar for current updates regarding range closures and special events.

Safety—Greg Lynch. No report.

Operations—Wayne Jarvis. Wayne asked that if you notice something in need of repair to please contact him. Text him first, and then call; as he doesn't answer unknown calls.

Hunting—Tom Hill. John Gumann reported that Hunting season is coming up, and that if you'd like to hunt on club property to please reach out to Tom Hill for details. He indicated that separate liability insurance is required for hunters on club property.

Cowboy Action—John Seal John reported that they had their 10 year Anniversary last month. Cowboy action mainly shoots single action weapons from the 1860's-1900's.

Cowboy Action holds a regular event every third Sunday of the month as long as weather permits. They shoot pistols and rifles from the 1800's, use leather holsters, shotgun shell belts, and cowboy hats and boots. Participants are \$10/member, \$15/non-member. Everyone is welcome to come and just watch if you'd like.

NRA Training – Adam Maurer reported the following upcoming classes

- Aug 30th—NRA CCW (\$100members/\$150 non-members)
- Sep 13th—NRA First Step Pistol
- Oct 10th-12th—NRA Basic Instructor, Basic Rifle, & Rifle Instructor

with additional CCW, Shotgun, and Pistol course planned in the future.

He encourages all members to take advantage of this training, as it is available at a discount to standard NRA rates.

USPSA—Ron Gumann John Gumman reported for Ron that they had 57 participants for the August USPSA match, same as July's count.

USPSA matches at Shongum are typically capped at 60, which is four squads of 15. Once full we establish a wait list for those who contact us. We have exceeded 60 at times.

We have also instituted a policy to prioritize registration. We have reserved slots for certified USPSA RO's who want to work the match. We prefer to have two per squad or at least one, with other experienced folks. Then folks who show up early and help set up. Third is Shongum members. We do not want to turn away any Shongum member and will always accommodate them even if they just walk on match day. Last is all others. We generally work the wait list in as some folks drop during the week between registration and match. To date, we have not turned anyone away, but just in case, we have set up a priority for us to follow. We posted this on the Shongum USPSA FB page:

If the match is full, you can reach out to info@shongumuspsa.org to claim your spot. As an FYI, when folks register on line they can identify as RO or Shongum member so we know. We know the set up crew/volunteers from experience.

Women's League—Elizabeth Mackee Elizabeth reported the league runs March–October, last Wednesday of each month from ~630-930pm. The league is open to all women (family, friends, and non-members are welcome) and costs \$10 each with 50 rounds of 22LR ammunition supplied along with personal instruction. Minors 13 year old and up are welcome, when supervised by a parent. Elizabeth is always looking for instructor volunteers (Males are OK, especially those with 22LR pistols that can be utilized for the event. Please contact Elizabeth to RSVP at 973-303-3207.

Black Powder—Steve Serna reported that Black Powder shoots the Second Sunday of every month at the 100-yard line. The BS usually starts at around 9:30 AM, and the BP usually starts at around 10:00 AM. Turnout last month was light due to regular participant vacations, but the few of us there, had a great day. Atmosphere is always relaxed so feel free to come by even if just to observe. So come on out and give it a try. As always, Smoke 'em if you got 'em. And be sure to Keep Your Powder Dry

Membership —Greg Forte welcomed the following applicants for their first reading—Rick Perrano, Ted Taprowski, Nick Serafini, Joe Foster, Dave Buck, Dominic Chan, Greg Giani.

He then performed the second reading, welcoming the following

probationary members—Antonio Apostolus, James Brassi, Haley Hazen, Richard Hazen, Gabriel Pelaji, Aaron Loman, Henry F

Greg also reported that the wait list to join the club is quite short at the moment, and encouraged the membership to make it known to friends and acquaintances who may have be interested.

Greg confirmed receipt of the Shongum Anniversary pins and will be distributing them shortly.

Lastly, a second reminder that his wife Daisy is organizing the Club Picnic on September 27th. It will cost \$20 for adults, kids under 12 free. RSVP by Sep 18th. Food, games, raffle, and swap meet. Please see the website to sign up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: No reports from the By-Laws or Range Rules Committees

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD & WELFARE:

Pete Hefferan reminded the membership the importance of voting and the club's political history in protecting range rights.

Nick Dewar reminded members significant club history and encouraged them to read about it on the website.

Meeting adjourned @ 809 PM

Next Members Mtg on 9/17/25 a@ 7:30 PM