



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

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

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

**16 July 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 June 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 June 18, 2025): \$48,905.14

Receipts: \$16,978.78

Disbursements: \$31,658.32

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : (\$14,679.54)

Bank Balance (as of June 18, 2025) : \$34,225.60

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$58,470.50

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of May 31, 2025) : \$164,175.50

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of June 30, 2025) : \$7,089.19

President—Rich Gajda Not Attending.

Vice President—John Gumann No report.

Secretary – Phil Engert No report.

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy reported that last month's June match was cancelled after the first stage due to lightning and rain. He stated the High Power rifle match will be Sunday, July 27th.

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 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

Nick reported that the Indoor Range would be closed on all day on Thursday July 17th for lead removal and certification by licensed contractors.

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

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.

Reported 7/16/25 by Nick Dewar

Events—Bob Miranda. John Gumann read Bob Miranda's report. The second day of the Mansfield PD Training is tomorrow, July 17. The outdoor rifle range will be closed during that time. 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. John Gumann reported for Wayne Jarvis indicating that recent heavy rains have resulted in some water intrusion in the Mens and Ladies restrooms. He indicated that Wayne is working to correct future water leaks.

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 No report.

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 that the 2025/25 training schedule has been completed, and expect it to be posted shortly both on the SSA calendar and NRA websites. He encourages all members to take advantage of this training, as it is available at a discount to standard NRA rates.

USPSA—Ron Gumann reported they had 57 at the last match. We typically cap on line registration 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.

To be fair, we have recently 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:

Starting in August, we will be reserving spots for anyone that is a certified RO and willing to assist at the match. These spots will also

be released to setup crew and Shongum members once we have enough ROs. 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. 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.

It turns out that Sunday was the 1-year anniversary of the assassination attempt of President Trump and the tragic loss of firefighter and veteran Corey Comperatore. To commemorate this moment in history, I would like to add a 45-47 regular BP special match. You can use any 45 caliber BP rifle, but load it with only 47 grains. Then, whoever groups the best at 50 yards takes it. Easy peasy! If necessary we could back it out to 100 yards. 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

Black Powder meets the second Sunday of the month from 10 am until 12 pm. All are welcome with or without a Black Powder firearm.

Membership —Greg Forte welcomed one probationary member to regular membership. Greg also presented a bunch of new probationary members who were voted in by the membership. Congratulations and welcome!

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 been interested.

Lastly, he reported that he expects to have the Anniversary pins shortly; and a reminder that his wife Daisy is organizing the Club Picnic on September 27th and to HOLD THE DATE!

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

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe Argenziano noted some wear on the US flag flying at the clubhouse asking about replacement. John Gumann advised Joe to contact Wayne Jarvis.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Will Jones presented some historical firearms and reminded the membership of upcoming shows and events.

Meeting adjourned @ 8 PM
Next Members Mtg on 8/20/25 @ 7:30 PM