



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

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

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

17 September 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 August 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 Aug 20, 2025): \$27,936.88

Receipts: \$15,694.25

Disbursements: \$10,971.41

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : \$4,722.84

Bank Balance (as of Sept 17, 2025) : \$32,659.72

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$59,608.03

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of Aug 31, 2025) : \$165,313.03

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of Aug 31, 2025) : \$7,089.31

President—Rich Gajda Not Attending.

Vice President—John Gumann Explained that he would be leading the monthly Membership meeting, and Rich Gajda would be leading the monthly Executive Committee meeting, due to travel constraints between them.

Secretary – Phil Engert Not Attending.

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy reported that upgrades to the target from on the Rifle Range were recently completed. He then advised that the next High Power rifle match will be Sunday, September 28th.

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 to review the Range Rules when attending the club and that 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.

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.

Lastly, 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 is getting ready for the upcoming Harrisburg, PA match with 13 shooters, including 1 new shooter. This is a 3 day match (Fri, Sat, & Sunday), and we will have a BBQ after the Saturday events.

We continue to extend our invitation to any new shooters who are interested in the Pistol League. If interested, please contact Tom Stapleton by phone, his number is on the website.

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. John reported for Wayne that a few projects are pending, and may wrap in 2026..

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 Not attending.

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 John reported for Adam that there are new training courses on the calendar, and encourages all members to take advantage of this training. Please check the website and reach out to Adam for details.

USPSA—Ron Gumann John Gumman reported for Ron that they had 52 participants for the September USPSA match. Anticipating deteriorating weather, this match was shortened to wrap up before the afternoon storms, ending at 1:00pm.

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 Not attending. John reported that 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.

Juniors League—Bill Murphy Bill reported that Juniors routinely gets 5-6 junior shooters every other week. They are being taught how to shoot with coats and slings properly. More are always welcome. John Gumman also reported that to be an NRA affiliated club, it is MANDATORY to have a Juniors program to keep club and NRA momentum. If you know of anyone with children who may be interested, please reach out to Bill Murphy. His contact information is on the website.

Black Powder—Steve Serna No report.

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 offered the following probationary members to be voted into the club. They were Aaron Siegel, Dennis Flantine, Brian Bailey, and Colin Simpson. The membership unanimously approved and welcomed them to full membership.

Greg then welcomed the following applicants for their first reading—William son, Tom Quinelli, Eric Cowen, Bob Cll, Gerard Delly, and Abdul Bahi

He then performed the second reading, offering the following as probationary members—Dave Dabrowski, Joe Di Agostino, Nick Sereraffini, Joe Foster, David Buck, Dom Chan, and Greg Bellini. The membership unanimously approved and welcomed them to probationary membership.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The flag at the club is worn and rubbing against the trees. Joe to coordinate a replacement with Wayne Jarvis, our Operations Officer.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Will announced Victorian Rifle Mini Shoot in Three Springs, PA and a gun show in Palmer Township.

John announced that at our next/October Members meeting is the most important of the year, as we will elect our officers for the upcoming year; as well as decide on a few important decisions regarding membership caps, dues, and ongoing meetings schedules. Please plan to attend if you are able.

Meeting adjourned @ 806 PM

Next Members Mtg on 10/15/25 a@ 7:30 PM