



## Shongum Sportsmen's Association

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

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

**19 MARCH 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

Message Center: 908-637-4991

**Vice President John Gumann** started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

He asked the membership to please remain standing, in order to share some bad news about recently departed members. Within the last month, we lost both George Wagner on March 5th, who was club secretary; and Dave Petillo on March 7th, who was a club board member. Both of these gentlemen were Life members of the club and donated their time to the club by serving in official capacities. Our membership was represented at both of their services. It is with great sadness to say goodbye to them both in such a short amount of time.

He then led our club with an extra moment of silence in memory of all our departed members.

John initiated the first order of business which is to review the minutes of the previous meeting. He reminded those in attendance, that it is every members responsibility to look at the Newsletter (which serves as our minutes), and to report on any corrections or additions that may be required. He also reminded everyone that our meetings are governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

The minutes for the February 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 Feb 19, 2025): \$26,373.92

Receipts: \$13,746.19

Disbursements: \$11,973.09

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : \$1,773.10

Bank Balance (as of Feb 19, 2025) : \$28,147.02

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$31,524.65

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of Feb 28, 2025) : \$137,229.65

**George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance** (as of Feb 28, 2025) : \$7,088.95

**President—Rich Gajda** (Delayed due to new sinkhole on I-80Westbound, joins meeting for New Business section later)

**Vice President—John Gumann** reported that the apartment has now been rented to member Anthony Rizzo, starting April 1st. John introduced Anthony to the membership in attendance, noting that Anthony had been a club member for several years, and was made aware of the vacancy at the February mtg.

**Shotgun—Don Mercovich** No report.

**Rifle—Phil Engert reported for Bill Murphy.** There is an M1 Garand rifle match this coming Sunday 3/23. All are welcome to participate, even if you don't have an M1 Garand rifle to shoot.

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. Rember 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** reported that the Indoor Range is presently CLOSED due to a ventilation issue. Jim is meeting a repairman tomorrow to attempt a repair, but it may remain closed due to parts availability. He reminded everyone to CHECK THE CALENDAR before proceeding to the club to use the range in case the Indoor Range remains closed.

Jim 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 is also looking for volunteer to run a 50/50 raffle at this monthly Members meeting. He said it is very easy to do, and it would be a great way to provide a little service to the club. Please see him if you'd like to help.

Jim reminded the membership to take notice of the allowed calibers on the Indoor Range. The allowed calibers are posted both within the Range Rules (which are on our website), and they are also posted at 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!

Lastly, Jim asked that whoever is turning on the air conditioner on the Indoor Range, to PLEASE STOP; as it's not Summer yet.

#### **Pistol League – Nick Dewar**

The Pistol League Shooting Programs are now shown on the Website under Activities, Pistol League, icon Upcoming. Check it for upcoming activities.

The Pistol League has completed it's NRA Sanctioned League. Twenty one Pistol League Members participated in this Event. As of this writing we have 15 members who have met the 360 shot requirement for Classification.

We are now conducting a Police "L" League for an 8 week period. It is a 22 and Centerfire League although members may use a 22 for all stages if they so desire. The 30 shot Course of Fire is as follows: Slow Fire is 10 shots in four minutes; Timed Fire is 2 strings of five shots fired in 15 seconds per string and Rapid Fire is 2 strings of 5 shots fired in 11 seconds per string

We have identified two Club Members who are interested in joining the Pistol League and are working with them on League Procedures.

**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.  
Submitted 03/18/25 by Tom Stapleton  
Reported 03/19/25 by Nick Dewar  
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**Events—Bob Miranda** No report. John Gumman reminds everyone to please check the calendar if you are planning to visit the club to check for both last minute cancellations and events which may limit your availability to the ranges

**Safety—Greg Lynch** No report.

**Operations—Wayne Jarvis** No report. John Gumman reported that there was some wind damage to the aluminum fascia of the building and access to the club was limited for a time due to downed trees on the road.

**Hunting—Tom Hill.** No report. For the benefit of new members, John Gumman reported that the club does offer hunting (archery & shotgun), but that it is run as an independent group which requires it's own insurance. Please see Tom Hill if you are interested.

**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. Everyone is welcome to come and just watch if you'd like.

**USPSA—John Gumman reported for Ron Gumann.** John reported that a match was held earlier this month in March with a turnout of 64; and noted that if you consider visiting the club during the USPSA events that parking will be challenge because the property is VERY BUSY that day. Next match will be April 5th, depending on weather. There is also an Intro to USPSA class planned for May 31st this year.

**Women's League—Elizabeth Mackee** Elizabeth reported that the Women's League will resume this coming March 26th. The league is open to all women (family, friends, and non-members are welcome) and costs \$10 each with 22LR ammunition supplied. Elizabeth is always looking for instructor volunteers (Males are OK, especially with 22LR pistols that can be utilized for the event. Please contact Elizabeth to RSVP at 973-303-3207.

**Black Powder—Steve Serna** 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** read in the following Pledges for their 1st reading: Katarina Grofikova, Frank Spizziri, Ruth Mc Andrew, John McAndrew, Jesse Ippolito, Bettina Cece, Robert NiCrastrro, Mark Derivolkov, Vlad Kovalev, Mike O'Grady, Greg Mattes, Robert Cartagena

New Probationary members: Loukas Koufodontes, Tom Presnell, Michael Bankin, William Somers, Aziz Sheikh, Drew DiGiesi, Francis Baluyot, Russell Defalco, Tom Presnell, Anthony Germani, Samuel Berthold, Chris Clark

New Regular Member: David Mauro

Greg reports progress with Anniversary pins. Samples have been ordered for review, and we have

(Note: President Rich arrived to conduct remainder of meeting)

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rich noted that we have several open positions to fill via official membership vote, two Officers and one Board of Director position.

**New Training Officer-** Rich introduced Adam Maurer, an NRA Instructor, who had approached Rich about the open Training Officer position. Adam introduced himself, as a member since 2003, and also a NRA Instructor and CRSO along with some other qualifications.

**New Secretary-** Rich introduced Phil Engert who has been serving as Acting Secretary since September 2024 when George Wagner expressed a desire to step down. But according to club bylaws, Phil could NOT officially be voted in as Secretary until he had been a member for at least 3 years. At that time, George Wagner kindly continued as the official Secretary, until Phil reached his 3 year anniversary, which is now (March 2025). Phil introduced himself to the club and stated he was happy to volunteer to assist the club.

**Officer Election-** Rich then asked if there were any other candidates interested in either of these positions. With no one responding, Rich asked for a non-officer to make a motion for both of these candidates to be added to a special ballot for election to the offices of Training Officer and Secretary respectively.

A motion and second were made by club members; and Rich proceeded to ask the membership if there was any discussion or questions to be had of these proposed candidates. Seeing none, he proceeded to request a general vote by the membership to approve Adam Maurer and Phil Engert to the positions of Training Officer and Secretary respectively. The membership raised the cards and approved these two candidates without exception. **Adam Maurer is the new Training Officer and Phil Engert, the Secretary**

Rich then advised that the club has an open Board of Director's position (vacated by David Petillo) which needs to be filled. He described this position as inactive during most of the year, but becomes active annually to audit aspects of the organization.

He asked the membership if there were any volunteers, whereby Pete Hefferan volunteered to serve. Rich then asked if there were any others in attendance who might be interested, but no one else responded. Rich asked the membership if there were any questions or discussion about Pete Hefferan serving as a new Director on the Board. Seeing none, Rich requested a general vote by the membership to approve Pete Hefferan as new member of the Board of Directors, where he was approved unanimously. **Pete Hefferan is now a new Director on the club's Board.**

#### **GOOD & WELFARE:**

Will Jones brought a Burnside Civil Ware Carbine for review by the membership.

Will Jones reported the next Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society meeting will be held in May, because this year the April meeting falls on Easter.

Hackettstown Firearm & Storage received some 300 guns from an estate, many of which are black powder. They are presently being priced for sale.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:16 PM

Next Members Mtg on 4/16/25 a@ 7:30 PM