



## Shongum Sportsmen's Association

P.O. BOX 431  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840  
www.shongum.org  
Monthly Newsletter  
2024.Vol.:XLI.Issue:XI

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

20 November 2024  
7:30 PM

### Officers

#### **President:**

Rich Gajda 908-892-5422

#### **Vice President:**

John Gumann 973-933-2764

#### **Treasurer:**

Mike Fortunato 973-927-3088

#### **Secretary:**

George Wagner 973-927-7616

#### **Shotgun:**

Don Mercovich 908-319-4478

#### **Rifle:**

Bill Murphy

#### **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:**

(Open)

#### **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:**

George Wagner 973-927-7616

#### **Juniors:**

Bill Murphy

#### **Black Powder:**

Steve Serna 973-601-3779

### Phone Numbers

Message Center: 908-637-4991

**President Rich Gajda** started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He then led our club in a moment of silence in memory of all our departed members. Rich also reminded those in attendance, that our meetings are governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

The minutes for the October 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 Oct 16, 2024): \$49120.53

Receipts: \$18906.76

Disbursements: \$37179.10

Excess Disbursements Over Receipts: (\$18272.34)

Bank Balance (as of Nov 20, 2024) : \$30848.19

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$29551.45

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of July 30, 2024) : \$135256.45

**George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden** Fund Balance (as of July 30, 2024) : \$7,088.65

**President—Rich Gajda** reported we are essentially back on track with renewals and processing of membership cards, but we are still recording everything into the legacy, single-user Alpha database. We are planning the migration to the new membership system, WildApricot, which will be done in phases. Phase I is to migrate the basic membership functions into WildApricot, and Phase II would be to enable online renewal and payment reminders by email.

On other matters, Tony Ansaldi resigned his position as Training Officer. We are looking for a member to replace Tony, but the member needs to be a current NRA certified Instructor. Please see Rich if you are interested.

**Vice President – John Gumann** commented on last months election of officers during our Annual Mtg. He thanked the membership for their confidence in electing the slate of officers presented, and reminded everyone that our club is a personal, member-owned organization.

John reported that the clubhouse apartment is now ready to be rented out to a member. Renovations included a complete deck and stairway replacement, some roof repairs, and some painting repairs. We had two candidates interested in renting, but neither panned out; and are looking to find a tenant. John reminded that this tenant must be a member, in a group two people maximum, and can't be a smoker, pet owner, or have minor children. We will likely do another email blast to ensure everyone who is interested has a chance to reply, and then narrow the list with interviews. Please see me if you have any interest.

**Secretary – No Report.**

**Shotgun – No Report..**

**Rifle – Bill Murphy** reported Winchester has issued a ammo recall for 22 Long Rifle M-22 40 grain bullets. Further details can be found here <https://winchester.com/Support/Customers/S22LRT-Recall>

The next High Power Rifle Match is Sunday, November 24th. We follow the CMP Cup Match rules. These High Power matches you'll need 50 rounds for the event plus any sighting rounds you use prior to the event. We suggest you bring a shooting mat for the prone segment. The concrete can really be abrasive. The cost is \$7.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members. Event starts at 10:00 AM, and finishes about Noon time. Please come early to help setup before the match can run.

**Pistol – Jim Owings** reported. We are still looking for a person to run a 50/50 raffle during this meeting. We would like a member to step forward and volunteer.

Jim displayed the Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) and reminded everyone that every pistol should have an ECI inserted when placed at rest on the bench; and for example, if you have 10 guns on the bench, you will need 10 ECIs. These are available for sale in the vending machine at the club and from Jim Owings directly for \$1.

Jim reminded members that they **SHOULD NOT** put steel or aluminum cases into the brass bucket as it creates considerable recycling problems.

Jim mentioned that there was some shooting damage to a sign in the indoor range, and to please be careful as signage is not a proper target.

Jim mentioned that the Indoor Range would be closed on Monday, November 25th from 2-6 to repair some range equipment.

Lastly, Jim mentioned that the previous month/October Newsletter did NOT include official notice of the George Rutkowski Award to Pete Hefferan. Pete was celebrated for his contributions to the club this past year.

**Pistol League—Nick Dewar and Tom Stapleton** reporting The Pistol League Shooting Programs are now shown on the Website under Activities, Pistol League, icon Upcoming

The Pistol League conducted two Novelty Events recently. The first one was our Annual Halloween Fun Match on October 29, 2024. Eleven Pistol League warlocks squared off with 22 Caliber rifles and 22 Caliber pistols and shot at targets of pumpkins, spiders, bats and skeletons. It was a 400 point shoot fired a 50 feet with a 25 minute time allowance! The Winning Warlock was Jim Owings with a score of 348

We also conducted our first Stake Cutting Fun Shoot. The goal is to sever/break a 1 inch x 2 inch furring strip 2 ½ feet long that is hanging vertically on the backstop. The equipment used in this Fun Shoot was a 22 Caliber pistol, This shoot was suggested by League Member Joe Argenziano during our recent Member Interest Survey. Scoring consisted of two elements, total seconds and total number of rounds fired. Each shooter had a member who acted as a timer and a member who counted rounds fired and also acted as a magazine loader. The lowest total score wins. The winner of the shoot was John Cooke with a score of 146 John is an experienced Cowboy Action Shooter. His win is proof that Cowboy Action Shooting helps you learn to shoot fast and straight

The third phase of our Waiting List Recruitment Program for the Pistol League will start at the end of November

We are also exploring the introduction of a third relay to support growth in Pistol League participation. We had enough positive responses to support a third relay as the Pistol League grows

**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 11/18/24 by Tom Stapleton

Reported 11/20/24 by Nick Dewar



**Harrisburg 2024 Walt Wise Memorial Pistol Match** Shongum Sportsmen's Association Pistol Team From Left to Right - Bruce Williams, Bob Miranda, Steve Smith, Phyllis Bitow, Rob Litkenhaus, John Salenga, Pete Yentema (Standing), John Cooke Paul Saacke and Nick Abrishamian

**Events – No Report.** Rich reminded members to check the website calendar before making a trip to the club to ensure there are no range closures which could alter your plans.

**Operations—No Report.** (See Vice President's report)

**Safety – No Report**

**Training – No Report,** position open. (See President's report)

**Hunting – No Report.**

**Cowboy Action – John Seal** reported a gorgeous day and event was had this past Sunday, November 17th with one of the top shooters in the country participating. It was fun to watch him move. We will continue running the monthly Cowboy Action event thru the Winter as long as the temperatures are above 40F and it's not raining. For more information, join their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/shongumwileycoyotes>

**USPSA – Ron Gumann** reported via email that the November USPSA match had 59 shooters, and that the December match is scheduled for Dec 7th, Pearl Harbor Day. He stated that probationary and/or new members that don't know about USPSA should check <https://uspsa.org> and to call or email him if interested.

**Ladies Taking Aim (Woman's League) – Elizabeth M.** reported by email that the Woman's League is over for the Winter and will resume again in March.

**Black Powder – Rich Gadja** reporting for **Stephen Serna** — Black Powder meets the second Sunday of the month from 10 am until 1 pm. Steve emailed that the usual cast of characters were out for a beautiful day on November 10th. Black Powder events are now year round on the second Sunday of the month. start time is 10 AM. Unless of course the weather is awful. So bring what you got and smoke them as always. First timers and spectators, even critics, are welcome,

with or without a Black Powder firearm.

**Membership** —**Greg Forte** read in the Probationary members to Full Membership, all members voted in favor. Then Greg read in the Applicants for 1st reading; and then Applicants for 2nd reading, all members voted in favor.

And for anniversaries, Greg announced that Donald Kemper would become a life member of the club on 12/15/2024.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Next Members Mtg on 12/18/24 will also be our annual Holiday party. No cost to member, free beer and wine after the meeting along with a dinner buffet.

**GOOD & WELFARE:** Pete Hefferan reported that for upcoming Member Meetings there will be a theme to some firearm displays at each monthly members meeting. In December, no display. In January, those with favorite or special firearm, are invited it to bring it for display. And in March, we will have a display on the firearms which enabled our westward expansion.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:25 PM

## Calendar of Regular Events

Club Meeting - Third Wednesday of each month, begins at 7:30 PM.

CMP Rifle Match - Fourth Sunday of each month, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, First shot @ 10:00 AM.

Cowboy Action Shoot (CAS) - Third Sunday of each month, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

Executive Committee Meeting - First Monday of each month, begins at 7:00 PM.

USPSA - First Saturday of each month, January through December, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Junior League - Friday evenings (indoor range), refer to Web Site calendar, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Pistol League - Every Tuesday evening, 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Trap Program - Every Sunday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
(Unless noted on the Web Site)  
Every Tuesday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Women's League - Final Wednesday of each month, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Black Powder - Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. In the colder months, start time moves forward to 11:00 AM.