



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

P.O. BOX 431
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
www.shongum.org
Monthly Newsletter
2026.Vol.:XLIII.Issue:II

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

**18 February 2026
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:
Dave Johnson 973-634-5874
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 reminded those in attendance, that our meetings are governed by Roberts Rules of Order; and that only regular members may vote or present motions

John then verified we have a quorum by a show of members standing with their badges.

The minutes for the January 2026 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 Jan 21, 2026): \$19,060.11

Receipts: \$18,349.65

Disbursements: \$7925.88

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : \$10,423.77

Bank Balance (as of Feb 18, 2026) : \$29,483.88

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$47,186.53

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of Jan 31, 2026) : \$152,891.53

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of Jan 31, 2026) : \$7,089.61

President— Rich Gajda No report.

Vice President— John Gumann No report.

Secretary – Phil Engert reported that a new commercial Fire Alarm system was recently installed. He also indicated that updated Range Closing times were posted at the clubhouse for 2026. (Note: Outdoor ranges close 30 minutes before Sunset, which varies by date throughout the year)

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy Indoor 22LR caliber "stake-cutter" rifle match is scheduled for 2/22/26 @ 10AM. This is restricted to members only—\$5 each. . Arrive by 9AM to help setup, 930AM prep for match. Please check the online calendar, as this event may be cancelled due to winter weather.

Pistol – Jim Owings reported that the Pistol league has resumed after weather-related pause. Jim also reminded the membership that Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI's) are mandatory, that no handling of firearms is allowed when someone is downrange, and that the ventilation system MUST BE used when shooting in the Indoor Range. He also cautioned that the ventilation system starts up slowly, so to be patient to ensure it is running before shooting.

Pistol League – Nick Dewar reported that 16 shooters had submitted for the NRA league, and that 8 members have received classifications. A new league is planned for 2026, and that new participants are always welcome.

Events—Bob Miranda John Gumann reminded the membership to PLEASE check the SSA calendar for current updates regarding range closures and special events. Please check the calendar before you come.

Safety—Greg Lynch No report.

Operations—Wayne Jarvis No report

Hunting—(Open). No report.

Cowboy Action—John Seal reported that matches will continue in February, weather permitting. The range is reserved, and shooting will take place as long as temperatures reach above 40°F at some point in the morning and the ground is not frozen or icy.

NRA Training – Adam Maurer No report. John Gumann reported that there are NRA pistol safety and concealed carry training programs now scheduled, and to please check the calendar.

USPSA—Ron Gumann John Gumman reported that February match was cancelled due to weather. An Introduction to USPSA training class is scheduled for Saturday May 30th, 2026

Women's League—Elizabeth Mackee Elizabeth noted that the Womens League has stopped for the Winter and will resume in March.

Black Powder—Steve Serna reported that monthly shoots will continue through the Winter weather permitting. Black Powder meets the Second Sunday of Every Month at the SSA 100 yard line. The BS starts at 09:30 AM, the BP starts at 10:00 AM. Festivities usually last until 01:00 PM. Please check SSA Web site for weather cancelations

All are welcome to participate and or observe. Parents are encouraged to bring your children. Every effort to accommodate whatever you brought to shoot will be made. Course of fire is usually at your own pace, so a couple of shots in a couple of hours is usually a great day! Targets are usually Paper with novelty targets (i.e. metal plates, etc.) available. Should you forget or not have an accessory needed, someone will probably have one to spare or share. Newby Note: period accurate accoutrements will usually improve your score, just like chrome increases horse power.

Solicited or un-solicited advice abounds freely, and in fact, there is such a collective of BP Mo-Jo, you are guaranteed to hit a Bullseye on a target you weren't even aiming at!
As always, Smoke 'em if you got 'em.

Membership —Greg Forte

Approved: Probationary → Regular Membership

- Frank Baggio
- Rich Bizak
- Michael Vanya
- Brett Emery

(All approved by member vote without objections.)

New Applicants – First Reading

- Nick Madeskew
- Raymond Puentes
- William Draker
- Justin Robinson
- (firstname missing) Rosenson
- Ronald Vilandy
- Eric Thornton

(These applicants will proceed through orientation and be considered at a future meeting.)

New Applicants – Second Reading (Approved to Probationary Membership)

- Short O'Rourke
- Dean Newton
- Bob Prego
- Vin Giordano
- Dave Posano

(All approved by member vote without objections.)

Membership Milestones / Anniversaries

20-Year Members:

- Chris Caruso
- John Mancion
- Rob Trimmer
- Steve Weiner
- Bruce Williams
- Jeffrey Wyatt

30-Year Member:

- Thomas Klose

Orientation Reminder

Orientation held Saturdays at 8:00 AM at the clubhouse. Attendees must arrive on time.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

John Gumman had reported that previous Hunting Officer, Tom Hill, had resigned in January. The Executive Committee has since met with long-time member Dave Johnson who has volunteered to serve as our next Hunting Officer. Dave Johnson was recommended by the Executive Committee to serve in this role but requires a vote by the General Membership.

Dave Johnson was then offered to the membership as the new Hunting Officer, and approved by unanimous vote.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Will Jones mentioned several upcoming gun shows, and offered his services for antique firearm safety checks. He also offered his advice with regards to reloading.

Greg Forte reminded the membership that the club picnic is now scheduled for the last Saturday in September on 9/26/2026, and to block your calendars now

Meeting adjourned @ 8:15 PM

Next Members Mtg on 3/18/25 @ 7:30 PM

