



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

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

Member:

NRA: #C0469
CMP: 015111
ANJRPC
ATA
USPSA/IPSC
NJSTA

17 June 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 Maurer 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:

Tom Stapleton 908-852-3901

Women'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

The minutes for the May 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 May 20, 2026): \$24,789.97

Receipts: \$18111.20

Disbursements: \$18,804.55

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : (\$693.35)

Bank Balance (as of June 17, 2026) : \$24096.62

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$48,911.19

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of May 31, 2026) : \$154,616.19

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of May 31, 2026) : \$7,089.84

President— Rich Gajda No report.

Vice President— John Gumann reported that several property projects are in progress and being managed by our Operations Officer, Wayne Jarvis.

Secretary – Phil Engert reported that work continues on the migration to our new membership platform WildApricot. Phil also advised that anyone who needs the login and password to the website should email secretary@shongum.org

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report. John Gumann reported that the Shotgun program is now shooting 3 times per week—Sunday mornings, Tuesday mornings, and Friday evenings.

Rifle—Bill Murphy Bill reported that the Juniors Rifle program currently meets every other Friday evening. The program is intended for young shooters, including beginners approximately 11 or 12 years old. The club can provide rifles and shooting jackets. Ammunition costs approximately \$5 per participant. Experienced instructors and accomplished competitive shooters assist with the program. Members were encouraged to bring interested young people who want to learn basic rifle skills.

Bill reported that a high power rifle match would be held the next fourth Sunday of the month. Participants should arrive by 9:30 a.m. for sign-in, with shooting starting at 10:00 a.m. The match is NRA-sanctioned and open to the public. Fees are \$7 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Members may bring nonmember guests.

The course of fire consists of 50 rounds and generally lasts about two hours. Shooters were advised to bring extra ammunition, especially if their rifle has not been sighted in recently. The match includes sighters, offhand/standing, rapid sitting with mandatory magazine change, rapid prone with mandatory

magazine change, and slow prone.

Shooters were advised to bring a shooting mat, carpet, or other padding, as shooting from concrete is uncomfortable. A spotting scope or binoculars are helpful but not required.

High Power Rifle 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. Sling is very helpful. \$7 members \$10 non-members.

Pistol League – No report.

Phil Engert reminded the membership that every firearm in use on club ranges must have an empty-chamber indicator to indicate the firearm is safe when un-cased and the range is hot.

Phil indicated that he had club ECI's available for purchase for \$1 each, and to see him after the meeting to purchase if needed.

Safety—Greg Lynch No report.

John Gumman reviewed the required safety process for all events and activities NOT governed by the regular Range Rules. He indicated that all proposed activities and events must receive range-safety review and approval. This requirement applies regardless of the type of activity. No event should proceed or be submitted for final approval without first being reviewed for range safety.

Greg is handling range-safety reviews and was recognized for responding diligently to requests. The revised archery-range project and several proposed events are being processed through this system.

Events—Bob Miranda No report.

John Gumann reminded members wishing to organize an event must complete the event-request form available online.

The approval sequence is:

- The organizer submits the online event form.
- The form is routed to Bob Miranda.
- The request is circulated through the required safety and administrative reviews.
- The Executive Committee considers final approval.
- Once approved, the event is posted on the club website..

John reminded the membership to PLEASE check the SSA calendar for current updates regarding range closures and special events.

Operations—Wayne Jarvis No report.

John Gumann noted that Several property improvements were recently completed. A new paved roadway or access area has been installed from the parking lot past the trap houses. The paving is intended to improve access to the trap facilities. A replacement furnace is being prepared for installation before the coming heating season. Wayne continues to devote significant time to property projects.

Hunting—Dave Johnson. Dave reported on Wildlife and Property activity indicating that recently only very limited property work had recently been performed. Signs of wildlife activity were observed, which was considered encouraging for the October turkey season.

Dave also discussed the new Archery Range Relocation Project where this range will be relocated from the upper 50-acre area. The new area will be located parallel to the rifle range. The proposed layout is intended to address safety concerns between the rifle and archery areas. Initial clearing has been completed.

No apparent safety conflict was identified between activity on the rifle range and the proposed archery location. The new archery-range Standard Operating Procedure must be completed and approved by the Executive Committee. Once the SOP is approved, target frames will be constructed and the range can be placed into operation. Steve agreed to assist Dave with the project.

Members wishing to hunt on club property must go through Dave Johnson and the hunting group. The presiding officer emphasized that the club's liability insurance does **not** cover hunting. Hunters must obtain their own insurance before hunting on club property. The hunting group is responsible for posting the property and maintaining stands.

John Gumann reminded the membership that the club continues to cooperate with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife on bear monitoring. A bear trap had been placed on club property for approximately one week and was reportedly removed the preceding Monday. A similar monitoring period occurred earlier in the Spring. Additional monitoring may occur in the Fall.

Fish and Wildlife notifies the club when traps are installed and removed. The club may receive information regarding the monitoring results. Spring monitoring is particularly relevant to identifying sows and cubs born during the winter. Members who encounter the equipment on club property were advised that it is part of an authorized wildlife-research program.

Cowboy Action—John Seal No report

John Gumann reported that Cowboy Action shooting occurs on the third Sunday of the month. The activity uses cowboy-style firearms and stages, including props such as horses and other themed setups. Members were encouraged to observe if interested.

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. Participants must attend the 9:30 AM safety meeting. Everyone is welcome to come and just watch if you'd like.

NRA Training – Adam Maurer No report

John Gumann reported that our Training Officer Adam Mauer is organizing NRA-approved training programs. A concealed-carry course had recently been conducted. Additional NRA courses and concealed-carry classes are planned. Course information is posted on the club website. Club members receive priority registration. Members were encouraged to contact Adam regarding upcoming training.

• **USPSA—Ron Gumann** Ron reported An introductory

USPSA class was conducted at the end of May. The class was led by Dan Marchiarullo and Scott Singerline, with assistance from Roger Reed. The class was reported to have gone well.

A match was held on the first Saturday in June. Because of the July 4 holiday, the next match will not be held on the first Saturday of July. The next USPSA match is scheduled for **July 11, 2026**. Members interested in learning more were encouraged to attend as spectators with proper eye and ear protection or to contact the program organizers.

Women's League—Elizabeth Mackee. Elizabeth reported that Ladies Night runs from March through October on the final Wednesday of each month. The cost is **\$10**, which includes 50 rounds of .22 ammunition, access to various handguns, eye protection, and personal instruction. Ladies, family members, and friends are welcome. Coaches are also welcome, especially those who can bring suitable personal firearms.

Attendees were asked to contact Elizabeth in advance so the group can plan for the number of participants. A potluck dinner is also part of the event.

Black Powder—Steve Serna Steve reported that black powder shooting takes place on the second Sunday of the month. Participants generally gather around 9:30 a.m. and begin shooting around 10:00 a.m. A recent shoot included a prospective new member, his wife, and his mother, all of whom enjoyed shooting black powder firearms. Members with safe black powder firearms were encouraged to bring them out and participate.

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 website for weather cancellations

Membership —Greg Forte

Picnic Announcement

The annual picnic was announced for September 26 at noon. The picnic is family-friendly, with no firearms. It will include games, food, and a 50/50. Children under 12 are free. Members were asked to RSVP by approximately September 21. The prior year's picnic had about 50 attendees, and the goal for this year is approximately 100.

Probationary Members Advanced to Regular Membership

The following probationary members were presented for approval as regular members:

- Joe Greenwood
- Jennifer Greenwood

There were no objections or questions. A motion or approval vote was taken, and both were approved as regular members.

First Readings

The following applicants received first readings:

- Chris Barth
 - Diana Lakitis
 - Ryan Mullins
 - An applicant with the surname McLaren, who was not present
- Applicants were advised to complete range orientation and return for their next meeting/readings.

Second Readings / Approval as Probationary Members

The following individuals were presented for approval as probationary members:

Two applicants were identified as having work exemptions:

- Tom Justice
- Kevin Mutzer

Additional second-reading applicants included:

- Vincent Stefani
- Patrick Anst
- Applicant with the surname Lutes
- Sam Giordano
- Randall DeMarc
- Brett Sigmeister

There were no questions or objections. The applicants were approved as probationary members. The membership materials were expected to be mailed within the next few days.

Membership Anniversaries

The following membership anniversaries were recognized.

Five-Year Anniversaries

- Philip Garcia
- Dominic Tameo

Ten-Year Anniversaries

- Benjamin Hasail
- Frank Corrigan

Fifteen-Year Anniversaries

- Owen Rowe
- Frederick Wildra
- George Riveros
- Frederick Wildra Sr.
- Gregory Stand Trump
- Albert Delorio
- Michael Clancy

Twenty-Year Anniversary

- Peter Kolln

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD & WELFARE:

A. Black-Powder Target-Stand Design

Steve Serna reported that he had developed a three-page PDF containing plans for a target stand used for black-powder shooting. A sample was displayed. The design reportedly has an adjustable, stable base. It is resistant to being overturned by wind. Copies of the plans are available from Steve.

B. New Jersey Arms Collectors Meeting

Will Jones reported a meeting of the New Jersey Arms Collectors organization was announced for the following evening. **Location:** Veterans building in Kenilworth, New Jersey, on 21st Street near the Boulevard

C. Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society Show

Will Jones reported The Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society show was announced for the coming Saturday and Sunday. **Location:** Agricultural Hall at the Allentown Fairgrounds The summer show was described as generally less crowded than the winter shows. Transportation was offered to interested members.

D. Club History Presentation

A historical presentation was given regarding the origins of Shongum Sportsmen's Association. Key points included:

- The present association was formed through the merger of Comanche Bowmen and Paper Punchers.
- A 1969 registration document showed that Comanche Bowmen hosted a New Jersey State Field Archery Association championship.
- A September 1977 letter stated that Comanche Bowmen was celebrating its 25th anniversary, establishing its founding in 1952.
- Comanche Bowmen was founded in Randolph Township by a small group of bowhunters.
- During the early 1960s, the club purchased approximately 30 acres in Denville Township and constructed a range and clubhouse.
- At the time, Comanche Bowmen reportedly was the only New Jersey archery club that owned its facilities.
- The Denville property was later used to help finance or leverage the acquisition of the current Mansfield Township property.
- Comanche Bowmen was the surviving corporate entity following the merger, but the organization's name was changed.
- The name "Shongum Sportsmen's Association" was selected because of the location of the new property.
- The former Denville clubhouse included an indoor archery range, indoor pistol shooting, and a bar.
- The club once obtained a local license allowing alcohol to be served during events.
- Venison dinners were once a major annual fundraiser and reportedly drew approximately 300 attendees.
- Other social events included St. Patrick's Day gatherings.
- The Mansfield property originally consisted of approximately 98 acres.
- Approximately seven or eight years ago, the club purchased an additional 10 acres from a neighboring property owner for approximately \$75,000.
- Earlier membership rules required participation in three work parties and attendance at three meetings.
- Concern was expressed about the comparatively low participation in present-day work parties despite a membership of ap-

proximately 850.

- Members were encouraged to preserve and contribute historical records, photographs, and documents.

E. Stop the Bleed Training

Phil Engert advised the membership of a free Stop the Bleed course offered through the American College of Surgeons at Hackettstown Medical Center. **Date:** Monday, June 22, 2026 **Scheduled time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Cost:** Free

The practical instruction may take approximately 30 minutes despite the two-hour reservation. Members were encouraged to attend because bleeding-control skills are particularly relevant to shooting-sports activities and emergency preparedness.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:05 PM

Next Members Mtg on 7/15/26 @ 7:30 PM