



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

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

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

18 March 2026

7:33 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:
 Tom Stapleton 908-852-3901
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

The minutes for the February 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 Feb 18, 2026): \$29,483.88

Receipts: \$14,837.24

Disbursements: \$15,753.84

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : (\$916.60)

Bank Balance (as of Mar 18, 2026) : \$28,567.28

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$47,608.20

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of Feb 28, 2026) : \$153,313.67

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of Feb 28, 2026) : \$7,089.67

President— Rich Gajda No report.

Vice President— John Gumann No report.

Secretary – Phil Engert No report

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy Upcoming Garand Rifle match on Sunday, March 22nd. Will be shooting 30–50 rounds, depending upon the temperature.

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 – Tom Stapleton John Gumman reported that development of the 2026 Pistol League shooting program is underway. Details will be posted soon on the club website under Activities → Pistol League → Upcoming Events. Recent participation has been inconsistent due to cold weather affecting indoor range comfort. Continued open invitation for members to join Tuesday night sessions. Interested members should contact Tom Stapleton for participation details.

Pistol – Jim Owings reported that Empty Chamber Indicators (ECIs) are strictly mandatory for all firearms & that firearms must be uncased on the bench and always pointed downrange. Safety compliance is repeatedly emphasized due to ongoing issues with adherence. ECIs must be used in every firearm

without exception; this is not optional. ECIs are available for purchase at the club (approximately \$1 each).

Jim also reminded the members that the **new 2026 Range Rules** are now in effect. The new rules include visual guidance on approved vs. prohibited ECI types (e.g., string trimmer line is not acceptable). Members are responsible for reviewing, understanding, and following all updated rules. Members are encouraged to download and read the latest rules; non-compliance is not excused by lack of awareness.

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 reported that 11 new RSOs were recently certified, with the total now over 110. Upcoming Emergency Preparedness class (CPR/AED) on April 11. And a Steel Orientation scheduled for March 28..

Operations—Wayne Jarvis John reported that Wayne has multiple upcoming projects, including maintenance and facility improvements.

Hunting—Dave Johnson. Dave reported that hunting opportunities are available on ~94 acres, with low participation of late. Turkey season opens April 20. Liability insurance required (via NJ Federation membership or equivalent).

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 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 reported delays in starting the season due to weather but is planning its first match for April 4, contingent on conditions. Matches are typically held on the first Saturday of each month. A USPSA Introductory class is scheduled for May 30, with registration details available on the club calendar. Participants are reminded to bring eye and ear protection and can contact the organizer through the website for more information.

Women’s League—Elizabeth Mackee reported that Women’s League is resuming for the season, beginning the upcoming Wednesday and continuing on the last Wednesday of each month through October. Sessions begin around 6:30 PM and include a pot-luck-style gathering. For a fee, participants receive access to firearms, ammunition, safety equipment, targets, and instruction. Additional volunteer instructors are welcome to assist with the program.

Black Powder—Steve Serna reported that sessions continue monthly, with participants meeting at 9:30 AM and shooting beginning at 10:00 AM. The format is flexible, accommodating various firearm types and skill levels. Sessions typically conclude around 1:00 PM, and members are welcome to observe or participate.

Membership —Greg Forte

Approved: Probationary → Regular Membership

- Michael Grady
- Drew DeCicco (name partially unclear)
- Tom Fresnel
- Gus Tafalco (name partially unclear)

- Sherry Harvey
- Lucas Cofidantes (name partially unclear)
- Sam Furtold (name partially unclear)

All approved by member vote without objections.

New Applicants – First Reading

- Brian McEvoy
 - Jason Antonio
 - Webster Staples
 - Frank Ferrell
 - Abdullah Mustafa
 - Ralph Campbell (not present)
 - Ryan Sarah (name partially unclear)
 - Joe Bachkin
 - Franz Mesmer (name partially unclear)
- These applicants will proceed through orientation and be considered at a future meeting.

New Applicants – Second Reading (Approved to Probationary Member)

- Rafe Wenters (name partially unclear)
 - William Drake
 - Lon Balandy
 - Eric Thornton
 - Nick Madeskew (name partially unclear)
- All approved by member vote without objections.

Membership Milestones / Anniversaries

5-Year Members:

- Daniel Van Volkenberg
- Richard Remisi
- Stan Correct (name partially unclear)
- Elmer Cavarro
- Stephen Murray
- Peter (last name unclear)
- Ira Alice Howell (name partially unclear)
- John Pimley
- Gregory Forshman

10-Year Members:

- Jeffrey Weinacker
- Doug Botanic
- Austin Neary

15-Year Member:

- Jeffrey Cohen

20-Year Member:

- Craig Robinson

New Life Members:

- Christian Hugling
- Kenneth Conner
- Ronald Hayes
- Robert Hippett
- Martin Hyman Jr.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD & WELFARE:

Brewers Arms Collectors Association:

Organization focused on historical firearms and related topics.
Annual membership approximately \$100.
Monthly meetings include educational presentations (e.g., Martini-Henry and Snider rifles).
Additional events include shooting activities and gatherings.

Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society:

Membership approximately \$30/year.
Hosts multiple large gun shows at Allentown Fairgrounds and smaller monthly shows at Palmer Firehouse.
Events feature:
Antique and modern firearms
Ammunition and reloading components
Equipment and collectibles
Noted pricing opportunities on bulk powder and supplies.

Reminder of Pennsylvania firearm purchasing rules:

Rifles/shotguns transferable directly with NJ FID and background check. Handguns must be shipped to NJ FFL.

NRA Board Elections:

Members reminded to submit ballots before the deadline.
Emphasis on supporting New Jersey representation.

Political / Legislative Notes:

Mention of local election activity and encouragement for member participation. Petition available supporting a pro-Second Amendment candidate.

General Announcements:

Free paper targets available from a member promoting a ballistic-related online resource. Members encouraged to test and provide feedback on the tool.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:13 PM

Next Members Mtg on 4/15/26 @ 7:30 PM