



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

P.O. BOX 431
 Hackettstown, NJ 07840
www.shongum.org
 Monthly Newsletter
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Member:

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

20 May 2026

7:31 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 April 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 April 15, 2026): \$48684.71
 Receipts: \$18497.05
 Disbursements: \$42391.79
 Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : (\$23894.74)
 Bank Balance (as of May 20, 2026) : \$24789.97
 Money Market Fund:
 Available for use: \$48526.06
 Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00
 Balance (as of April 30, 2026) : \$154231.06

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of April 30, 2026) : \$7,089.78

President— Rich Gajda No report.

Vice President— John Gumann Members were informed that Steve Zaikowski, who handles the club's forestry work and related paperwork and inspections for the state farmland assessment, was scheduled to conduct brush cutting on June 1 and June 2. The exact location was not specified, but work may occur around the ranges, trap houses, or upper fields. The presiding officer noted that Steve's forestry work is important to the club's woodland management program and helps preserve favorable tax treatment, which in turn helps keep dues down.

Members were also reminded that cut firewood is available for member personal use. The firewood is kept near a parking area off the main road. The presiding officer emphasized that the firewood is for members' own consumption only and is not to be taken for resale or other improper use.

Because Memorial Day was approaching, the club was working to replace the POW flag that had apparently gone missing from the property. Wayne Jarvis and Bob Miranda were reportedly working on obtaining a replacement before Memorial Day..

Secretary – Phil Engert reported on the transition to Wild Apricot, which will become the club's membership database. The club currently has approximately 850 members, including roughly 125 life members. The Secretary explained that the prior membership system was a legacy program written by a club member many years ago, and that the transition to Wild Apricot had been delayed while data issues were cleaned up. The Secretary emphasized the importance of having valid email addresses for all active members. Current email coverage is approximately 90%, with about 30 active members lacking an email address on file. Those members will need to be contacted so that their information can be added before the transition is fully completed.

Members were encouraged to ensure that the club has their correct email address, since future membership renewals, reminders, training notices, and club communications will rely heavily on email.

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy Bill reported that a high power rifle match would be held Sunday. 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.

John Gumann reported that the Pistol League shoots every Tuesday night and operates an excellent program. Tom Stapleton is in charge, and Jim Owings assists. Contact information is available in the newsletter and on the website.

Tom Stapleton submitted the following written report after the meeting for this newsletter.

The Pistol League 2026 Shooting Programs are being developed and will be shown on the Website under Activities, Pistol League,

CURRENT SHOOTING PROGRAM:

We just completed a two-week Event covering Rifle and Pistol Paper Silhouettes and have started another two-week Event using Novelty targets. Please call Tom Stapleton at 908-852-3901 for details on the targets used. On June 2 2026 the Pistol League will conduct a Fundamental Marksmanship Review for League Members. The review will include discussion and shooting time.

The NRA recently announced a new Pistol Marksmanship Category that supports Two-Hand Hold shooting. We have applied to the NRA for approval to conduct a Sanctioned League for the Pistol League to start on June 9, 2026.

Our previous Items of Interest mentioned two Protocol Changes we were working on. The changes cover Two-Hand Hold shooting and SSA Member Skill Demonstration for SSA Pistol League Participation. The Skill Demonstration is a continuation of what we were doing to qualify Waiting List Prospective Members so they could join the Pistol League. The Two-Hand Hold starts immediately and the Skill Demonstration is effective June 1, 2026. Greater detail will be posted on the first page of the Pistol League SOP

NEW MEMBERS: 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.

SAFETY ITEM: Empty Chamber Indicators (ECIs) are required on all uncased firearms on the shooting benches and they must be pointed down range.

Submitted 5/24/26 by Tom Stapleton

Events—Bob Miranda No report.

John Gumann summarized the event approval process. Firearms events are reviewed first through the Range Safety Officer, Greg Lynch, who approves range safety considerations. From there, events go to the Events Chair, Bob Miranda, for scheduling and conflict review. Events then proceed to the Executive Committee for approval. This process applies to shooting events and also to other club activities, including major events such as the annual picnic.

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

Safety—Greg Lynch No report.

Operations—Wayne Jarvis No report.

John Gumann noted that Wayne Jarvis is responsible for facilities, buildings, grounds, ranges, and general property operations. He was recognized for his substantial work around the club.

Hunting—Dave Johnson. No report

John Gumann reported that Dave Johnson has taken over the hunting and archery program. Although he is new to the position, he has been a member for approximately 30 years.

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.

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 the next highlighted training event is the June 13 CCW class, which is sold out. The presiding officer noted that there remains strong interest in concealed carry training.

USPSA—Ron Gumann No report

John Gumann reported that USPSA shoots on the first Saturday of the month. The most recent event had 55 competitors. Participation has been strong, often drawing 50 or more, sometimes close to 60.

The match director limits attendance for safety reasons, based on available range safety officers. Each competitor is closely supervised by a range safety officer during stages. Members were encouraged to attend as observers with eye and ear protection.

A related Introduction to USPSA class was mentioned for May 30. The class was already full and had a waiting list.

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:

- Phil Weber
- Scott Weber

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:

- Tom Justice
- Vince Stefani
- Patrick Studes
- Kevin Monzer
- Olivier Wynn

- Sam Giordano

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:

- Ralph Capoli
- Jameel Ashirah
- Kayla Capito
- Ralph Cavalier
- Ron Stickle
- Brian Perron
- Anthony Roy
- Suzanne Soble
- Ray Killian

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

- Mark Becker
- Robert Fitzpatrick
- James Brennan
- Michael Celo
- Nickaras Hetherington
- Diane Medcraft
- John Zorinsky
- Joe McNeil
- Blake Ellen

Ten-Year Anniversaries

- Scott Chazin
- Ronald Hill
- Richard Carrera
- James Schwanik
- Stephen Owens
- Robin Braider

Fifteen-Year Anniversaries

- Jeffrey Hauser
- Vincent Olivia

Twenty-Year Anniversary

- Dominic Serrano
- Dominic Serrano was also recognized as the club's former trap chair.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Outdoor Pistol Range Surface

A member asked whether the club had considered installing a concrete or paved pad at the outdoor pistol range to make brass pickup easier.

John Gumann responded that the idea has been considered many times, but there is no consensus on how it should be done. It is not currently under active consideration. Concerns were raised that a hard surface could create ricochet issues. The presiding officer acknowledged that this is part of the safety concern and that the range will remain as it is for now.

The discussion then turned briefly to the recent paving in front of the trap houses. That work was done to make it easier to maintain and load trap machines, including improved access for equipment. The doors on the trap houses are also expected to be replaced because they have become worn over time. John reported that the club's trap operation was an important and active part of the club. It generates income, and members and nonmembers pay fees to shoot. The club reportedly spends approximately \$17,000 to \$18,000 annually on clay birds, with those costs offset by shooting fees.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Will reported on upcoming gun shows. The next Hellertown gun show was expected sometime in July, with the exact date to be confirmed. The Forks of the Delaware show was mentioned for June 21, described as a smaller show. Members were advised that these shows are generally cash-and-carry and may have useful items available.

Will also mentioned that he loads ammunition for certain calibers and had recently completed load development for .351 Winchester Express.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:07 PM

Next Members Mtg on 6/17/26 @ 7:30 PM