



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

P.O. BOX 431
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
www.shongum.org
Monthly Newsletter
2025.Vol.:XLII.Issue:X

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

15 October 2025

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:

Tom Hill 908-637-4665

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

President Rich Gajda 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 also 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 September 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 Sept 17, 2025): \$32,659.72

Receipts: \$18,899.36

Disbursements: \$15,561.89

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : \$3,337.47

Bank Balance (as of Oct 15, 2025) : \$35,997.19

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$60,171.40

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of Aug 31, 2025) : \$165,876.40

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of Sep 30, 2025) : \$7,089.37

President— Rich Gajda Rich reported that the October meeting is normally the Annual Meeting where the membership present votes on key decisions and elections for Officers and Trustees. Unfortunately, an initial poll of the membership present did not yield the necessary 23 members present to satisfy the quorum necessary to conduct official business and hold the annual vote.

Rich then proceeded with the usual Officers and Committee reports, noting that a quorum count would be taken later during the New Business portion of the meeting. Should some members arrive late to the meeting, the quorum minimum may be achieved at that point.

Vice President— John Gumann No report.

Secretary – Phil Engert No report.

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy reported the next High Power rifle match will be Sunday, October 26th.

High power 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. (Very Helpful). Sling is very helpful. \$7 members \$10 non-members.

Pistol – Jim Owings reminded the membership to review the Range Rules when attending the club and that Empty Chamber Indicators are REQUIRED for every gun that is exposed on the firing line. He sells them for \$1 each at this meeting, and you can also buy them from the vending machine in the clubhouse.

He also advised that the Indoor Range will be closed certain upcoming days for work to the roof from 2-6pm), so please check the calendar before heading to use the Indoor range.

Pistol League – Nick Dewar

The Pistol League shooting Programs are now shown on the Website under Activities, Pistol League, icon Upcoming Events

HARRISBURG PISTOL MATCH The members of the Shongum Sportsmen's Association Pistol Team competed in the 66th Walt Wise Memorial Pistol Match hosted by the Harrisburg Hunter's and Angler's Association of Harrisburg PA on September 20th and 21st, 2025. The members are as follows: Nick Abrishamian, Phyllis Bitow, John Cooke, Mike Delisa, Nick D., Rob Litkenhaus, Bob Miranda, Mark Grimes, Jim Owings, John Salegna, Steve Smith, Tom Stapleton and Bruce Williams. We entered three 22 caliber Team Matches and three Centerfire Team Matches Our results were as follows:

- First Place in 22 Caliber Team Class A
- Second Place in 22 Caliber Team Class B
- First Place in Centerfire Team Class B

We participate in this shooting event every year. All of us shoot under the same conditions. We decided to use this match to determine the Annual Champion. This years SSA Pistol Team Champion is Phyllis Bitow.

We also have a non-shooting event that happens every year thanks to Nick Abrishamian. Each year Nick hosts a club picnic on Saturday evening. Hamburgers and hot dogs from the Chester Meat Market, homemade salads and all the trimmings.

Congratulations to the Teams and our Club Champion and thank you Nick for your hospitality.

We are looking forward to next year

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.

We continue to extend our invitation to any new shooters who are interested in the Pistol League. If interested, please contact Tom Stapleton by phone, his number is on the website.

Submitted by Tom Stapleton
Reported by Nick Dewar

Events—Bob Miranda. Rich Gajda 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.

Hunting—Tom Hill. No report.

Cowboy Action—John Seal Not attending.

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 cow-

boy hats and boots. Participants are \$10/member, \$15/non-member. Everyone is welcome to come and just watch if you'd like.

NRA Training – Adam Maurer No report

USPSA—Ron Gumann John Gumman reported for Ron that they had 56 participants for the October USPSA match.

USPSA matches at Shongum are typically capped at 60, which is four squads of 15. Once full we establish a wait list for those who contact us. We have exceeded 60 at times.

We have also instituted a policy to prioritize registration. We have reserved slots for certified USPSA RO's who want to work the match. We prefer to have two per squad or at least one, with other experienced folks. Then folks who show up early and help set up. Third is Shongum members. We do not want to turn away any Shongum member and will always accommodate them even if they just walk on match day. Last is all others. We generally work the wait list in as some folks drop during the week between registration and match. To date, we have not turned anyone away, but just in case, we have set up a priority for us to follow. We posted this on the Shongum USPSA FB page:

If the match is full, you can reach out to info@shongumuspsa.org to claim your spot.

As an FYI, when folks register on line they can identify as RO or Shongum member so we know. We know the set up crew/volunteers from experience.

Women's League—Elizabeth Mackee Elizabeth noted that the final Women's League event of the season will occur in two weeks on October 29th.

The league runs March–October, last Wednesday of each month from ~630-930pm. The league is open to all women (family, friends, and non-members are welcome) and costs \$10 each with 50 rounds of 22LR ammunition supplied along with personal instruction. Minors 13 year old and up are welcome, when supervised by a parent. Elizabeth is always looking for instructor volunteers (Males are OK, especially those with 22LR pistols that can be utilized for the event. Please contact Elizabeth to RSVP at 973-303-3207.

Juniors League—Bill Murphy Bill reported that Juniors routinely gets 5-6 junior shooters every other week, typically aged 10+. The league is open to both members and the public at large. Bill indicated that they recently hosted some 4H shooters and their coaches, some of whom were a former state champion and Olympic trials participants.

If you know of anyone with children who may be interested, please reach out to Bill Murphy. His contact information is on the website.

Black Powder—Steve Serna Steve reported that Black Powder shoots the Second Sunday of every month at the 100-yard line. The BS usually starts at around 9:30 AM, and the BP usually starts at around 10:00 AM Turnout last month was light due to regular participant vacations, but the few of us there, had a great day. Atmosphere is always relaxed so feel free to come by even if just to observe. So come on out and give it a try. As always, Smoke 'em if you got 'em. And be sure to Keep Your Powder Dry

Membership —Greg Forte Greg welcomed the following applicants for their first reading—Matt Dalton, Jeff Hostag, Jim Brennan, Rich Sluter, Diane Crayer, Mark Stevens, Nicole Cafaro

He then performed the second reading, offering the following as

probationary members—Robert Cottrell, Eric Cohen, William Son. However, given the lack of a full quorum, the vote to accept these candidates to probationary membership was postponed until the November mtg.

Greg also reported that the picnic held on Sept 27th was a great success. It was organized by his wife Daisy and attended by ~55 members and family.

Lastly, Greg indicated that Shongum anniversary pins have been received, and to contact him at meeting to get yours.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Rich Gajda reminded the membership that new business, including the Annual Mtg vote; required a quorum minimum of 3 executive officers, and 20 regular members.

Several additional quorum checks were taken at this time, but all failed to produce the requisite minimum of 23 members to proceed. Rich then announced that all new business AND the voting normal to the Annual Meeting would be postponed to the November meeting.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Will Jones announced upcoming guns shows in Allentown & Split Rock, PA. Will also offered members to watch a reloading demonstration after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 802 PM

Next Members Mtg on 11/19/25 a@ 7:30 PM