

36 The First-Ever USPSA S

By Duane Thomas, Nyle Leatham Photos

The 1911 Single Stack Classic has been an annual event since 1995. The brainchild of Russell Cluver and pistolsmith Richard Heinie, this match requires shooters to fire a 1911 with single stack magazine, with holster/mag pouches carried in a concealable fashion. This year, because of its new Single Stack division of competition, the United States Practical Shooting Association (the active body of the International Practical Shooting Confederation [IPSC] in the US) for the first time recognized the Single Stack Classic as a national championship. So in addition to being the 12th annual Single Stack Classic, the 2006 match was also the first-ever Single Stack Nationals.

Right now, USPSA Single Stack is still a provisional division of competition, i.e. whether or not a particular shooting club recognizes Single Stack is up to them. The division was implemented on January 1, 2006. In three years USPSA will review the experiment and see if there's been enough participation (defined as at least 10-12 percent of shooters at clubs offering the division fire in Single Stack) to make it a permanent part of the sport. With the Single Stack Nationals, you certainly can't say USPSA isn't supporting the new provisional division!

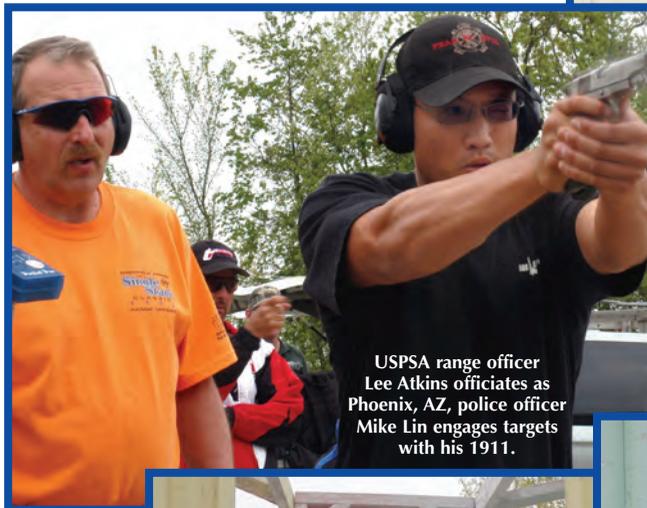
For Single Stack, USPSA has adopted Single Stack Classic equipment rules pretty much wholesale. Minimum caliber is 9mm (.354"). Minimum caliber to make Major (more points on target with less-than-center hits) is 10mm (.400"). Major-power-factor guns have a magazine capacity limit of eight. For Minor-power-factor guns it's ten. There is a very short list of permitted gun modifications and features. No compensators. No optics or any kind of electronic sighting devices. No barrel weights. No ported barrels. No pistols with attachment points for external lights or optics. No coned or flanged barrels (except in guns with barrels 4.2" long or less). No plastic frames. No extended magazines. Competition holsters of the racegun type are specifically prohibited. Mag pouches must be designed for continuous daily wear and be reasonably concealable. Holster and mag pouches must be worn behind the hips.

238 people shot the match. This was the maximum number that Single Stack Classic honchos allowed. This match always fills up fast. For next year, with the added interest now that it's a national championship, they're looking at ways to accommodate more people.

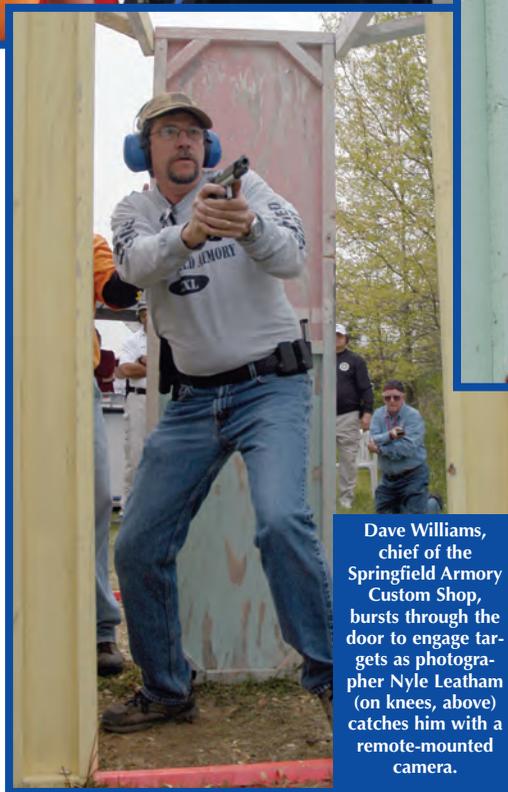
By far the most popular cartridge at the match was .45 ACP. Out of 238 shooters, 199 shot .45, and 96 percent of those used a 230-grain bullet.

The .40 S&W was a distant second with 26 shooters, the most popular bullet weight being 180 grains. Six people shot 9mm Parabellum, five used .38 Super, and two hardy individualists shot 9x23.

The most popular gun brand by far was Springfield with 111 entries. This may have had something to do with the fact that Spring-



USPSA range officer Lee Atkins officiates as Phoenix, AZ, police officer Mike Lin engages targets with his 1911.



Dave Williams, chief of the Springfield Armory Custom Shop, bursts through the door to engage targets as photographer Nyle Leatham (on knees, above) catches him with a remote-mounted camera.