

Politics At The Nationals

Candidate Meet-and-Greet Reveals Points of Agreement, Divergence Among Presidential Candidates



Voigt

BY ROBIN TAYLOR, USPSA STAFF

Following the third day of competition at the Open/Limited-10 Nationals in Missoula, Mont., USPSA Presidential candidates Michael Voigt, Mike McCarter, and Ray Hirst found their way to a conference room in the match hotel. Billed as a “Candidate Meet and Greet” on flyers posted around the range and hotel, members attending the meeting found something more akin to a formal Q&A session – with refreshments. (Gary Stevens was unable to attend, but a representative read out a prepared statement on his behalf.)

Moderated by stats chief and Area 1 director Bruce Gary, the meeting raised questions on everything from the future of Limited 10, to the relevance of Airsoft guns to gun rights.

Limited 10 questions brought out radically different viewpoints.

“I’d do away with Limited 10,” said Michael Voigt. “It was originally supposed to be Single Stack.”

Contrast that to Ray Hirst, who said, “I would never move to do away with Limited 10.”

McCarter sided with Hirst, saying, “I don’t believe we should eliminate any current division within USPSA ...L-10 has a place within USPSA sport shooting for quite a while.”

All three expected USPSA to grow, and agreed that 20,000 members was a reasonable 4-year estimate of that growth.

Where Limited-10 showed division, the future of Revolver showed unity.

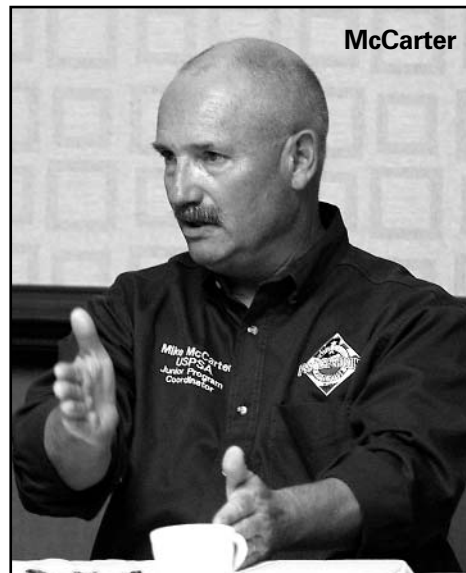
McCarter not only saw Revolver Division continuing, but he saw it as an example of how USPSA can woo other shooting sports to the USPSA banner, saying “why not work with ICORE, even speed steel?”

Voigt was similarly warm toward the wheelgunners. “I think Revolver is here to stay,” he said. “It’s a unique thing, and the membership has shown it is a service to them.”

Hirst showed enthusiasm for the division. “I love Revolver,” he said. “I hope it’s here to stay.”

On the controversial Dropped Offset Holster (DOH) by Blade Tech, both Voigt and McCarter were against its continued acceptance in Production division. However, Hirst took a more neutral stance. His answers here mirrored his answers to other hot-button questions. “I don’t like the DOH holster, but if the membership came to me for or against, I’d go with that.”

The Airsoft question came up late in the meeting, and drew varying responses depending on what facet of Airsoft was being discussed. As a training tool, all looked at Airsoft very positively until Airsoft guns start being



McCarter

treated as “replacements” for real guns (the Hong Kong section uses Airsoft exclusively).

“I’d fight like crazy to keep them out of USPSA,” said McCarter.

“They’re not part of USPSA,” echoed Hirst.

“I see Airsoft as part of a downward spiral,” said Voigt. “They’re not part of USPSA. They’re a great tool, but not part of our sport.”

Bruce Gary’s final question asked “what do you see as the biggest opportunity, and biggest issue facing USPSA?”

On the opportunity side of the coin, Ray Hirst cited the chance for growth in membership. Voigt pointed to the chance to give direction to USPSA’s growing budget – something



Hirst

