

# BEST TARGETS

## ***BEST Targets Shooting Team After Action Report (AAR)***

**Event:** Woody's Designated Marksman Match  
**Date:** May 5, 2014  
**Location:** Woody's Hunting and Rifle Club, New Hill, NC  
**Websites:** [www.woodysmatch.com](http://www.woodysmatch.com)  
[https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/19497930/2014-5\\_Designated\\_Marksman\\_Match.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/19497930/2014-5_Designated_Marksman_Match.pdf)

**Shooter:** Chris Andrews with Scott Whitehead  
**Gear:** Remington 700 5R .308, SWFA 10x42 scope, Harris Bipod, Southwest Ammunition 175 gr SMK

### **Facility Notes**

Woody's Hunting and Rifle Club is just a few hours from BEST Targets so this was an easy day trip for us. The facility is nicely groomed rolling countryside surrounded by treelines where most of the targets were located. The clubhouse and registration were easy to get to and our first trip to a Woody's match was a nice day break from work.

### **Event Format**

The Woody's DMM Matches are run as tee time events. A few days ahead of the event shooting teams can find their tee times on line and you only have to show up in time to get registered and be ready for the first stage. Our tee time was 12:58 and we arrived around 10:00 to give ourselves time to learn the area and meet some people. We had lots of time.

We shot 5 stages at this match. Target distances ranged from 200 to 600 yards which was closer than I expected to shoot. The keys to this match were speed and being able to shoot from alternate positions. Range cards and descriptions for the 5 stages can be found at the link above. There was absolutely no reason to not know what to expect when we arrived. There was a simple barricade stage but we also shot from a rooftop, from the back of an SUV, from behind the blade of a bulldozer and from a swinging unstable platform. A few stages required handgun shots as part of the process but the handgun targets were easy hits and were not scored – they were simply required motions of the stage. The event scores are kept as team scores, not as individual scores. Each stage had a par time and team scores were kept by total time for both shooters to hit all targets with a penalty added for targets missed. We saw several two man teams hit all the targets twice on several stages. Since I was still shooting a top feed bolt gun I held back our team's score while Scott was able to clean his half a few stages.

The tee time format for a shooting event seems to be a subject of some debate amongst competitors. For those that want to show up, shoot and go home this format works great. For those that want to watch others shoot and meet some people in the sport it is a challenge. There were teams that were done shooting and heading home by the time we arrived. Scott sorted thru the finishing order and also found that there was clearly an advantage to having an early tee time. The majority of the top scoring teams shot early in the day when there was less wind. Every event has a different format and each has advantages and disadvantages. These are just the facts of the tee time format at Woody's. In short, deal with it.

### **Things Done Well**

Since this was the same rifle/ammo combination I had shot at the Mammoth Sniper Challenge earlier this year I had good DOPE on the rifle/ammo combination especially at these short distances. I feel like Scott and I had a good plan for each stage and we executed our plans well. To maximize our score and since I still had my top feed Remington 700 bolt gun we either let Scott shoot first or divided up the time so that he had more shooting time than I did. I didn't want to waste time on the clock reloading while Scott could be scoring points. I was happy again with my rifle and with the Southwest Ammunition 175 gr SMK Match ammo. Because we have done a fair bit of handgun events we did move thru the handgun shooting steps quickly buying us some time. We did see others struggle with what we thought were large, close handgun targets.

## Things Done Poorly

Although I knew I was going into the event at a disadvantage I was even farther behind here with my top feed bolt gun than I was at the Mammoth Sniper Challenge. Because this event was scored by TIME and not HITS the reloading issues cost me/us even more than at Mammoth. To be in the game at these Woody's events you must have some kind of magazine fed gun. We saw many more gas gun shooters here than at Mammoth and at these distances it makes sense. The scope I used was an SWFA 10x42. With this fixed power scope I sometimes found it difficult to find the targets. I saw many competitors using a scope with a better reticle to facilitate holds under and over on these fast paced stages.

The biggest thing I did poorly at Woody's was shoot from alternate positions. I struggled to get a shot off from the peak of the rooftop. I had never ever tried this before and it's much more difficult than it looks. Shooting from behind the blade of the bulldozer appeared to be an easy position but the oddball height of the blade and all the hydraulics and linkages behind the blade made it much more difficult to get into position than it looked.

## Results

Scott and I finished 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 66 competitors – mostly on the weakness of my reloading and low shot count. Ouch.

## Lessons Learned

Equipment is important and although I was happy to get to the event with the gear I had I'll be making some upgrades for next time. You can spend as much as you'd ever like on hardware but know there will always be someone with something better and there will always be something new to have. Practice and preparation are just as important. I've now seen guys with "lesser" equipment out shoot much more expensive gear. Even with the most awesome gas gun and glass the fact that I had never shot from the peak of a rooftop would have made it an epic challenge. These are positions that everyone should be practicing if you're serious about competing. As always, if you're going to an event for the first time find someone that has been before and ask as many questions as they'll answer for you.

## Notable Names

We got a chance to cross paths with John McQuay of 8541 Tactical at the match. Although John and I are from the same hometown of Evansville, IN we had never met in person. Dave Branson is the organizer of the match and did a great job.

## Summary

The Woody's Designated Marksman Matches are awesome events that take a day or less to shoot. If you come to one be prepared to shoot from many alternate positions and do it fast. Dave Branson does a great job organizing the event and everything went really smoothly for us ... although we didn't finish well.

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