

# BEST TARGETS

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

**Event:** Precision Rifle Series  
**Date:** June 20-21, 2015  
**Location:** Woody's Hunting & Rifle Club, New Hill, NC  
**Websites:** [www.precisionrifleseries.com](http://www.precisionrifleseries.com)  
[www.woodysmatch.com](http://www.woodysmatch.com)

**Shooter:** Chris Andrews  
**Gear:** Remington 700 5R .308 with Surgeon DBM, Kahntrol Solutions Muzzle Brake & PodMods, Harris Bipod, Southwest Ammunition 175 gr SMKs, SWFA 10x42 scope, Sig 226 Blackwater 9mm

### **Facility Notes**

It had been over a year since I had been to Woody's Hunting & Rifle Club and they are in the process of making some major renovations and updates. I noted that this was an awesome facility after I shot a DMM Match there last spring but the additions that Woody is making will surely make it the premier outdoor shooting facility in North Carolina.

Woody, Dave and the ROs for the weekend did a fantastic job of communication, organization and execution of the match. Everything flowed smoothly and no one was ever at a loss for where to go next or when. Stage briefings were clear and no one started a stage without understanding what was expected and how the stage would be scored.

### **Event Format**

This was the first competition of the Precision Rifle Series that I had ever entered and I really had no idea what to expect. The events that I've competed in so far all presented different challenges at targets ranging from 500 to 1100 yards and this being another precision rifle series competition I expected the same thing – I was wrong.

Before this week I had not shot this rifle since the last day of the Mammoth Sniper Challenge in January. On Thursday I went to a friend's private range to blow the dust off my trigger finger at targets between 100 and 400 yards.

On Friday afternoon registration started at 1:00 and there was a 100 yard zero range open from 1:00 to 5:00. Several vendors had displays setup around the zero range and I took the opportunity to shoot two 3 shot groups that left all three holes touching each other on a 1" dot. I felt pretty good about that.

At registration we received stage briefs that very clearly described all 12 stages. Each location on the range was home to two stages and often times we shot at the same targets of known distance from two different positions. I was surprised to see the distances ranged from 200 to 500 yards. These targets were much closer than I was used to shooting in competition but the difference here was time. Each stage had a 90 second limit and each target had a point value. Several of the stages included a time bonus which meant that after cleaning a stage the shooter got a point bonus equal to the amount of time left over on the clock – this was big. Most of the stages were known distance but a few included unknown distance targets that needed to be ranged without electronics. Friday night I made armboard index cards for each of the stages including dope for each target and abbreviated milling tables for the stages with unknown distance targets.

There was a safety and stage briefing Saturday morning at 7:15 and then each of the 6 squads headed to their first stage.

The first stage of our day required the shooter to climb steps into the loft of a barn, lay prone on a platform, find a full sized torso target in a field, mil-dot range it, set dope and hit the target using 5 rounds or less. I climbed the steps, got in position, found the target, ranged it and double checked my work, set my elevation dial and double checked my work, got on target and squeezed the trigger ... right after the buzzer. I hit the 880 yard target with my first round but I was too late. When I got downstairs several competitors told me "nice shot" but they didn't realize it was after the buzzer. Damn.

The second stage of our day required hitting 5 steel targets with a handgun drawn from a holster, dropping the handgun safely in a bucket and getting into position on a rooftop to shoot at 3 targets of decreasing size setup as a "know your limits" stage. After any miss you scored zero points. After any hit you could choose to quit or move on to the next target.

I cleaned the handgun targets but failed to hit the first target from my position on the rooftop. I never found a stable shooting position there and struggled to know how much time I had available to shoot after I got on target.

Our third stage was not difficult to shoot. At the buzzer the shooter had to enter a minivan and shoot from a prone position at three steel targets between 400 and 425 yards away. The three targets were larger than I expected and had to be hit from left to right then again from right to left. I cleaned this stage in 72 seconds so it was nice to finally hit some steel. My shooting partner Scott Whitehead ran this in 52 seconds. There were several in our squad that finished in the mid 30 second range. I felt good about finally hitting something but clearly I need to be much faster.

The fourth stage of the day required hitting 5 steel poppers with a handgun before running up a small hill to engage 4 steel targets ranging from 250 to 500 yards. Once again the handgun part was easy and I got in position and hit the first and second rifle targets quickly. I struggled to find the third target and ran out of time after only two hits.

Our fifth stage of the day was a standard barricade stage. Targets were at 100, 200, 300, 400 & 550 yards. Each had to be shot from a different position on the barricade and no position could be used more than once. I scored hits on the first three targets and was aiming at the fourth when time expired. Many shooters cleaned this stage.

The sixth stage of the day was at the same 200, 300 & 400 yard targets but they had to shot thru a loophole cut in a cardboard target and the shooter was not allowed to have their upper torso in contact with the concrete slab behind the loophole. The loophole portion of this stage was really a non-event as the hole was large enough that no one hit it. The positional part of this required a bag under the chest or an inclined prone position. I hit the first two targets quickly but once again ran out of time. Many shooters also cleaned this stage.

The seventh stage of the day required hitting 5 steel handgun targets then a short run up a hill to a 90° offset prone position. This was basically two short walls from left to right that the shooter had to lay between and then shoot around the corner at three targets – an 8", a 6" and another 8" target at unknown distances. I shot the handgun targets quickly and got up the hill and in position quickly but struggled to find the targets in my scope. Once I found one I quickly ranged it and missed with three shots before time expired. I never saw my misses so I'm sure my rushed ranging job was wrong as well. A few shooters in our squad cleaned this stage but many struggled here.

The eighth and last stage of the day required shooting a target from on top of 4 barrels spaced out in decreasing distance to the target. If you missed your first shot from the first barrel the rifle had to be hand fed one round at a time until you hit. After this first hit you were allowed a magazine change and the remaining three barrels could be shot from magazine fed. The barrels were very wobbly and I struggled to get in a stable position. I hit from the first barrel after four rounds and was just getting in position on the second barrel when time expired. Once again many shooters cleaned this stage.

Sunday morning we met at our first stage at 7:30 and we were shooting by 7:45. This stage required shooting 6 (7) targets at known distances between 200 and 350 yards. The targets had to be engaged thru gaps between barrels placed on a large flatbed trailer. From each gap no more than three targets could be seen so some lateral movement was required. One target was a falling flasher that exposed a 7<sup>th</sup> bonus target for an unknown period of time. One target included a hostage type no-shoot target that cost 20 points if hit. I hit 5 of the six targets off the trailer but I did not hit the bonus target behind the flasher and I ran out of time before shooting at the target with the no shoot hostage. I did ok here.

The tenth stage required shooting all of the same targets that we shot thru the barrels but this time while shooting under a spool. All the targets could be seen from this prone position but it did require some rotation. I hit the first 5 targets AND the bonus target behind the falling flasher before sailing two rounds just over the target with the hostage no-shoot. I should have been more confident in my dope here and actually hit the target but instead I started high and missed high twice.

The last two stages included known distance targets ranging from 285 to 500 yards. First they had to be shot while laying prone on a swiny "boat" platform. This was not as unstable as I expected. I hit the first target but struggled to find and hit the rest. I think at one point I was shooting at the third target with my second target dope. Many cleaned this stage.

For the twelfth and final stage these same targets had to be hit while using an angled 2x4 as a support. Due to the space restrictions and target locations the position needed to be sitting, kneeling or standing. Many used shooting bags to build a position to shoot from. One competitor used shooting sticks and another duct taped a shooting bag to the 2x4. The trick of the stage was to use a spring loaded clamp on the 2x4 to create a "V" to rest a bag and rifle in. After one shooter did this everyone asked to borrow his clamp. I hit only two of the five targets here while many cleared this stage as well.

## Things Done Well

The first thing done well was getting to the event. I don't get to compete as often as I'd like but I always enjoy the challenge and find things I can improve on when I do. Once again my Remington 700 5R shot flawlessly and the dope that I have built up over the years for this .308 is spot on. I was happy with my belt and pistol holster setup as well as how

my backpack and supplies were organized. Not knowing what to expect from the event Scott and I went with the “better to pack extra” plan. It was 95° for all three days and we stayed hydrated and in as much shade as we could find.

## Things Done Poorly

Comments here can be broken down into two categories, practice and gear. Although I expected to finish better here than I did it's silly to expect to do well if you only shoot once every six months. Any kind of shooting is a perishable skill and without practice it will fade. Because of my lack of practice I struggled with time management and positional shooting. Every other event I've shot has allowed a spotter/coach. Scott does a good job helping me get on target and we work hard to help each other work thru the stages and manage time. At this event I was on my own and struggled with time. My positional shooting skills are weak. I can shoot very well prone but the PRS events are not prone competitions.

I've never been a fan of shooting bags and positional accessories but I see that I'm going to need to become one to shoot well here. I will probably upgrade my stock/chassis system soon to something that will make barricade and positional shooting easier. Soon the .308 will go into the safe and only come out for events that require it and I'll be shooting a .260, 6.5 Creedmoor or 6.5x47 – I know I was the only .308 shooter in our squad and there couldn't have been many at the event. The fixed power, mil-dot reticle, MOA turret SWFA 10x42 scope will also stay in the safe on the .308 soon.

## Results

Total scores and final standings were released before the awards ceremony right around 2:00 on Sunday. It is worth noting here again that Woody, Dave and the ROs do an awesome job of running their events smoothly and on time.

Going into the event I was hoping to finish in the top half as I've finished in the top half to top quarter of each of the events I've entered. There were 120 entries and 107 shooters completed all the stages. I finished a disappointing 89<sup>th</sup>.

## Lessons Learned

There is no substitute for training and practice. I have a lot to learn about alternate shooting positions. I struggled to build stable positions and get on target quickly. I have done well at other events with the gear I have but I'll need a flatter shooting rifle and a scope that will allow me to do hold overs to be more competitive at time limited events like this.

## Notable Names

Once again Woody and Dave do a great job with their events. Lynn Houck helped out Scott and I by letting us ride from stage to stage in his wife's car on Saturday. Lynn is a great shooter and finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall. We hadn't seen Clark Kennedy in over a year. Clark finished 31<sup>st</sup> and we got to talk to him about the new range he's building in TN. Our Mammoth Sniper Challenge squadmate and overall winner Brandon Green represented the US Army AMU here and finished 36<sup>th</sup>. Fellow Guardian Long Range Competition supporters Jim and Melissa Gilliland finished 14<sup>th</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup>.

Jeremy Kahn from Kahntrol Solutions was at the event doing demos on the zero range. Although I've used a Kahntrol muzzle brake for several years this was the first event that I was able to use his PodMod Adapters, Atlas cleats and rubber feet at. Check out Kahntrol Solutions at [www.kahntrol.com](http://www.kahntrol.com) and [www.facebook.com/kahntrol](https://www.facebook.com/kahntrol) for some great gear.

The Mechanix Wear 0.5 mm High Dexterity gloves offered great protection on all the irregular barricade surface. Check out the entire lineup of Mechanix Wear gear at [www.mechanix.com](http://www.mechanix.com).

## Summary

Shooting in the Precision Rifle Series events are a great opportunity to go up against some of the best and fastest precision rifle shooters in the country – it's also a great opportunity to expose your weaknesses. Woody's Hunting and Rifle Club is a fantastic facility and with the construction going on right now it will get only better. Woody and Dave run their matches well. I learned a lot here and I'm looking forward to upgrading my gear and working on my positional shooting before I return. If you get a chance to shoot a PRS event don't pass it up ... but be ready for a challenge!

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