

BEST TARGETS

BEST Targets Shooting Team After Action Report (AAR)

Event: Green Beret Foundation Pro-Am

Date: November 11, 2015

Location: 37PSR Gun Club, Bunnlevel, NC

Websites: www.greenberetproam.org
www.37PSR.com

Shooter: Chris Andrews & Cornell Causey

Gear: Event provided Grey Ghost AR-15's w/Kahntrol Solutions muzzle breaks, SCARs, AKs, Glocks, revolvers, break action side-by-side and pump shotguns, lever action rifles, 1911's, slinigshots & tomahawks ☺.

Facility Notes

It had been almost a year since I shot the Infidel Gunfighter League event at 37PSR and it's always fun to get back there. The facility is fairly compact but it has 4 shooting bays, a shoot house and a 100 yard range in it and there's always lots of action. Frankie and Linda McRae put a crazy amount of time into organizing and hosting this event and it's nice to be invited into the world of comradery amongst Special Forces members while playing a part to support such a great cause.

Event Format

Being my first trip to the GBF Pro-Am as a competitor while representing BEST Targets as a sponsor I didn't know what to expect. Each of the 25 registered shooters (Amateurs) are paired with a Special Forces member (Pros) as a teammate first thing in the morning and scores are kept as a team. There were a few Amateurs I recognized from 3-Gun and local tactical event rundowns and some were simply recreational shooters. As you can imagine the Pros had experiences that most only read about and spending time with them and hearing their stories was a great way to spend Veteran's Day.

My partner was Cornell Causey from the 3rd Special Forces Group 1st Battalion. Cornell's wife and stepson joined us for the day as our photographers and cheerleaders. We didn't talk a lot about Cornell's experience in the service but I know he's spent a lot of time overseas and without even knowing the details of where he's been and what he's done I appreciate his service to our country. He was a great teammate and I hope we get to shoot together again next year.

Before the event the national anthem was performed while jumpers flew in with an American flag. Each team was introduced by team name along with event sponsors and representatives of the Green Beret Foundation. Being that our team was sponsored by BEST Targets Cornell suggested "BEST of the Best" as our name ... this came back to haunt us.

The event consisted of five stages and five groups of five teams rotated thru the five stages all day. In between each rotation the group gathered in the common area and there were items auctioned and raffled off to raise money for the Green Beret Foundation. There was a lot of nice stuff to be had and the enthusiasm and support for the cause was strong.

The first stage we shot required us each to shoot (5) rounds thru a Glock at (5) clay pigeons 15 yards away and then throw (2) tomahawks into a wood target. Cornell hit one pigeon and I hit none ... then I bounced both tomahawks off the target. We scored little to no points here which was not a great start to our day.

The second stage was a cowboy stage. I shot (5) steel targets with a lever action rifle, (5) steel targets with a single action revolver, (2) steel plates with a side-by-side two-trigger shotgun and finally a steel plate and a flying clay pigeon with the same shotgun again. Cornell followed me up shooting (5) steel targets with a lever action rifle, (5) steel targets with a vintage 1911, (2) steel plates with a pump action shotgun and finally another steel plate and a flying clay pigeon with the same pump shotgun. We cleaned this stage in a reasonable time and finally looked like we knew what we were doing.

Our third stage was a tactical SCAR stage. I started in the front seat of s Suburban with Cornell in the back seat behind me. At the buzzer we exited the Suburban and had to hit (3) "Green Ivan" falling targets twice each from behind cover. We then had to move to a stack of barrels and hit (3) more "Green Ivans" twice each before moving to another set of barrels and hitting another (3) "Green Ivans" twice each. At the middle set of barrels we had to reload. We started with a 9 round magazine in the SCAR and a 9 round magazine in our pocket. A perfect score would be 18 hits each with 18 rounds to shoot. This stage included one of my most memorable scenes from the event. While reloading my SCAR I had a double

feed and I dropped two rounds to the ground while clearing it. Once I was back in the game I proceeded to clear the targets but when I started shooting from the last round of barrels I thought “damn, I’m not going to have enough ammo” and when I emptied the SCAR Cornell yelled out and handed me a magazine with the two rounds in it that I had cleared to the ground – he picked them up and loaded them into his empty magazine along the way. I reloaded again and we cleared the stage. With the double feed clearing and the extra reload our time wasn’t great but we did clear the stage and I got a lesson in teamwork under fire. Thank you Cornell ☺.

The fourth stage required us to empty a plastic bin of parts off a table and assemble from the contents (1) Glock 19, (1) AR-15 and (1) AK-47, load (2) magazines for each with (5) rounds and then each of us had to shoot (5) rounds from all (3) weapons for score. On this stage we crashed and burned. Once everything was assembled we shot really well but our time to assemble these weapons was way too slow.

The fifth and final stage for us was a 100 yard shoot. We each had a Grey Ghost AR-15 equipped with a holographic red dot sight to shoot (5) rounds at (5) clay pigeons 100 yards away. By the time we got to this stage the sun had set and it was difficult to even see the targets. I hit one of the targets and Cornell hit none. For bonus score we each shot (5) marbles thru a slingshot at a 50% steel torso 50 yards away – yes, we both missed with all (5). We ended the last stage of the day just as we started the first stage of the day with little to no points but with some high spots in between.

Things Done Well

The first thing done well was getting to the event. I was proud to be there to support the foundation on Veteran’s Day and I was proud to have BEST Targets represented as well. I shot the wide variety of weapons well. I hadn’t shot a lever action rifle or side by side shotgun since I was a teenager and we cleaned the cowboy stage. I typically shoot revolvers well. Cornell’s stage three magazine reload for me was also an example of excellent teamwork and things gone well.

Things Done Poorly

Even after trying to guess what the event might include I hadn’t guessed we would have had to assemble an AR-15, AK-47 and a Glock 19. I definitely need to practice this. I also need to work on my tomahawk throwing and sling shot skills.

Results

After the final round of auctions and raffles the scores were totaled and the finishing order was announced. Team “BEST of the Best” finished dead stinking last – 25th out of 25 and everyone enjoyed a good laugh at that. Although this wasn’t an event that I set out to win I sure didn’t want to finish last and I don’t expect we will next year.

The best result of the day was the OVER \$92,000 raised for the Green Beret Foundation (beating 2014’s total by nearly \$30,000). The friendship and teamwork within the Special Forces community is amazing and I was glad to be a part of it.

Lessons Learned

The most valuable takeaway from the GBF Pro-Am is what I learned about Veteran’s Day and how to celebrate it. I’ve known people that have been in the military for years and I have always appreciated Veteran’s Day but spending the day with this group raising money for the Green Beret Foundation was an awesome experience. I’m looking forward next year.

Notable Names

It was great to see the results of Frankie and Linda McRae’s efforts in person. Joe Caley got away from his Veterans Golf Assoc. event for a few hours and it was good to see him. Jeremy Kahn and Kahntrol Solutions sponsored the event this year providing muzzle brakes for the event AND for all the Pro shooters. Joe Burdick and Al DeOrleans finished strong and I had a ton of fun with Cornell and his family.

Summary

In short the GBF Pro-Am is great event for a great cause and the perfect way to celebrate Veteran’s Day – don’t miss it.

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