

BEST TARGETS

BEST Targets Shooting Team After Action Report (AAR)

Event: Woody's Designated Marksman Match
Date: December 12, 2015
Location: Woody's Hunting and Rifle Club, New Hill, NC
Websites: www.woodysmatch.com

Shooter: Chris Andrews
Rifle: GA Precision GAP-10 chambered in 6.0 Creedmoor
Ammo: Copper Creek Cartridge 6.0 Creedmoor with Hornady 105 gr BTHP
Gear: Vortex PST 6-24x mounted in Vortex precision rings with a Vortex scope level, Kahntrol Solutions muzzle brake, Harris Bipod w/ Kahntrol Solutions Pod-Mod Adapters, Mechanix Wear gloves & Wiebad bags

Shooter: Scott Whitehead
Rifle: Stiller Action / Brux Barrel / KRG X-Ray Chassis Rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor by Clowdis Precision
Ammo: 6.5 Creedmoor Handloads. Berger 140 Hybrids, 42.5gr H4350, Lot R7d
Gear: Vortex PST 6-24x, TPS Rings, Harris BiPod w/ Kahntrol Pod-Mod Adapters, Wiebad Bags

Facility Notes

The Woody's Hunting and Rifle Club continues to be one of the nicest long-range facilities in the Southeast. We've been spending a lot of time there lately and every time we go we notice new construction and more to be excited about. If you live in this corner of the country you owe it to yourself to shoot at match there. On this particular Saturday morning the first shooters tee time for the event was around 7:30 but the fog was so dense we didn't start shooting until around 9:45.

Event Format

The Woody's DMM is run as a two man team event. Each stage has a 240 second par time. Some stages have an array of targets that both shooters shoot but from different positions. Some stages have targets and positions that are assigned to shooter 1 or shooter 2. It is up to the team to decide who shoots what, in what order and for how long. Some teams allow one shooter to use more time than the other. Once the first shooter tags out and the second shooter tags in the first shooter cannot return. Scoring is based on time. If a stage is cleared your total time is your score. If a team uses all 240 seconds and does not hit each target then their score is 240 seconds PLUS 60 seconds for each target not hit. There is no round count or limit per stage or per target. Every team is allowed 1 minute of prep time to get in the shooting position and find all the targets. The match is run on a tee time format so that one doesn't have to spend all day at the range to shoot the required stages. As always, Woody and Dave keep things moving in an organized and timely fashion.

We were the fifth team to shoot and the match started at Stage 1 – UP ON THE ROOF. (6) round targets ranging from 209 to 310 yards had to be hit by each shooter from the infamous rooftop simulator. The rooftop simulator is a roughly 12' wide, 30° sloped and 6' tall section of roof with shingles and a peak. Both shooters started at the base of the rooftop simulator and at the buzzer one shooter got in position on the roof and started engaging targets. At any time this shooter could retire, come down the roof and tag the second shooter. After being tagged the second shooter was to get into position and engage the same targets.

Scott – When we were preparing for this position, we had lots of ideas on how to shoot this stage. We both lacked preparation for rooftop shooting, and that led to lots of last minute “how about we try this” ideas. I settled on a low position, with the front of my gun resting on my lightweight STR8 Laced bag, and using my Wiebad Pump Pillow in the rear. I also got some support from my modified 215 Gear Sling. My position was very stable and I connected with the first four targets on the first shot. The fifth target, however, had my number. I struggled to connect, got a little frazzled on time, lost focus and missed at least four times. I'm not sure why this target gave me such an issue.

Chris – The first thing I screwed up at this stage was running the timer. When Scott and I shoot team events we keep a countdown timer with our spotting scope so that we can keep each other updated on time. I accidentally programmed the timer for 2 min 40 seconds instead of 240 seconds so I started calling Scott down off the roof too soon rushing his shots and cutting him short on time. In addition to screwing up the timer I struggled shooting from the rooftop. I was able to get

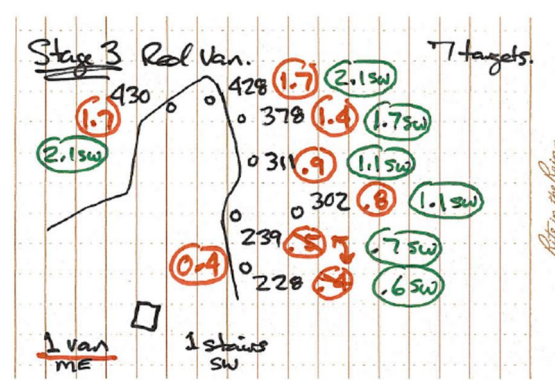
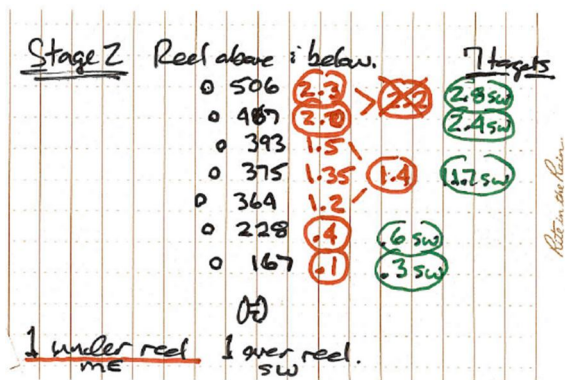
the front of my rifle solidly on the peak using my new SILO device but I never got my rear support solid. I was using a Wiebad pump pillow but I never got it situated correctly to have a solid shooting position. I only hit (2) of the (6) targets.



Stage 2 – REEL ABOVE AND BELOW included (7) targets that had to be hit by each shooter. Shooter one was to shoot them from a prone position under a larger wooden cable spool and then shooter two was to hit the same targets shooting off the top of the spool. The targets ranged from 167 to 506 yards from the spool.

Chris – I shot these targets from the prone position first. I yanked one shot but hit the (7) targets with (8) rounds. I felt like I moved from target to target fairly quickly. I did lose a little time here by dialing my elevation for each distance where other competitors used holds. After the misery of Stage 1 I didn't want to risk any more misses.

Scott – Shooting off the round barrel of the spool is a position I've shot several times before. Using the Str8 Laced front bag on the spool, and the Wiebad Pump Pillow to support the rear of the rifle in a weakside kneeling position, I felt very stable. I was able to quickly connect with every target, with only a single miss at one of the far targets. This was the only stage we cleaned in the event but our total time was around 220 seconds.



Stage 3 – RED VAN included (7) targets that had to be hit by each shooter. Shooter one was to shoot from a prone position out of the back of a minivan. After entering the van and engaging the targets shooter one had to clear his rifle, get out and tag shooter two before he could start. Shooter two shot from any position he wanted between the steps of a flight of wooden stairs. Targets ranged from 228 to 430 yards out.

Chris – I shot these targets first from the van. I can't remember if I missed any shots or not but I cleared all (7) targets and noticed on the timer that I tagged Scott with 120 seconds left. Once again I dialed my elevation for each distance but since that worked well for me on the last stage I did it again. I used 120 seconds and left Scott 120 seconds but to compete here I'll have to get thru the targets faster ... without missing.

Scott – I had shot these stairs before at the Precision Rifle Series match at Woody's. I found the second step to be very comfortable for a sitting position, with my left knee tucked slightly under the bottom step and a small bag under my right knee for a bit more elevation. I felt very stable, and connected with the first 6 targets without an issue. The last target, however, was not cooperative. It was at the same distance as the target just before it, but it was a bit smaller, and I must have been off just enough – a frustrating miss on the score card.

Stage 4 – BACK TO BACK BEHIND THE LAGOON was the stage that required the most movement and had the most variety. Shooters started back to back in a starting box. At the buzzer shooter one had to hit a single target from (4) different positions shooting off blue plastic barrels either on end or laid on their side. The barrels were 277, 265, 265 and

249 yards from the target. The challenge for shooter one was the movement and the alternating shooting positions. While shooter one was doing their thing shooter two had to run up a small hill and get in a prone position ready to shoot (5) targets ranging in distance from 291 to 401 yards. All of these shots had to pass thru a 24" round tube. The RO would call out when shooter one was complete and shooter two could then begin.

Scott – These barrels were another stage I was very familiar with. I knew I needed to give Chris as much time as possible for this stage, so I needed to be quick and efficient. Two of the barrels were on end, for a weak side kneel similar to the spool, and two were on their side for a low kneel. I missed one shot on the third target, a called miss which wasted a bit of time, but I felt like I finished my shots quickly.

Chris – I thought I climbed up the small hill and got into position here pretty quickly. I didn't expect these shots from the prone position to be difficult and the shooting thru the tube was really a non-issue. I don't know how much time Scott used or how much time I had left but for some reason I struggled here. I hit only (2) of my (5) targets costing us many points. The only thing I can attribute some of my misses to is the fact that the shooting position fell away slightly from the tube and I struggled to get my rear bag tall enough to support the back of my rifle.

Things Done Well

Chris – Once again I continue to shoot well prone. The new GAP-10/Vortex Optics/Kahntrol Solutions/Copper Creek Cartridge combo worked flawlessly at its second event in two weeks and I'm really happy with it. The new SILO device worked well supporting the front of the rifle on the rooftop. One thing Scott and I did for the first time that was helpful was keep each other's DOPE on our armboards so that we could help coach each other thru elevation adjustments and holds.

Scott – I had shot a bunch of these positions before, and I think I made the most of my experience. My rifle ran well, and the experience I'm gaining with all my other gear is really helping me build positions quickly.

Results & Lessons Learned

We finished 40th out of 60 teams - NOT the finish that we had been hoping for. A quick study of the results showed that there were many teams that cleaned most of the stages so the rank order of the top finishers came down to time.

Obviously to finish better we'll have to miss less and shoot faster.

Chris's takeaways/to do's:

- Do something different for rear bag prep. On several stages I couldn't get the rear bag to support my rifle at the right height. My bolt gun has a rear monopod which fills up some space – maybe I need one of those?
- Practice on barricades. Especially the rooftop. In a move to maximize our score Scott & I chose to have me shoot the prone positions and I cleaned (2) out of (3) of them but that did not get me any barricade practice.

Scott's takeaways/to do's:

- Keep practicing with new types of positions. The rooftop position is a glaring hole in our preparation. We need to make an effort to practice on more types of obstacles.
- Keep fine-tuning DOPE. Shooting paper, or clean steel where you can see the hits, will improve my data.
- Work on understanding my misses. I'm seeing lots of misses I can't explain. When I call a good shot, am confident in the wind call (or lack thereof), and have a super-stable position, I should connect. When I don't, I need to understand why I'm missing to get better.

Summary

Once again Woody and Dave put on an awesome event. Because the event started a few hours late due to fog we moved thru the stages quickly but the ROs were ready when we arrived and we didn't stand around waiting to shoot. Because we went early we were done quickly and wishing there were a few more stages to shoot – this is a byproduct of the tee time system. These DMM team events add an additional element beyond individual shooting and if you have a chance to get to Woody's to shoot one don't pass it up. There were 18 teams on a waiting list after the entry list was full so sign up quick!

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