

BEST TARGETS

BEST Targets Shooting Team After Action Report (AAR)

Event: Bangsteel.com Long Range Match
Date: January 17, 2015
Location: Bangsteel.com Long Range Shooting School
Websites: www.bangsteel.com

Shooter: Chris Andrews
Gear: Remington 700 5R .308, Surgeon DBM, SWFA 10x42 scope, Harris Bipod, SWA 175 gr SMK

Facility Notes

Bangsteel.com is a long range shooting school and range in Wytheville, VA. Dan Newberry runs the school and range and he's a great instructor and resource. In addition to the big Guardian Long Range Competition held here every year Dan holds these smaller, local matches regularly. This was the first one of these events I had been to so I didn't know what to expect. On the day of the event the sky was clear but it was cold and very windy with temps in the mid 40's to low 50's.

Event Format

The event was short and sweet. There were eight targets spread out across the range. Seven targets were squares, rounds and torsos of various sizes and the bonus target was a coyote profile. Targets were all at known distances ranging from 500 to 1000 yards. Shooters were allowed 5 shots at each target. Each target could only be scored on once except for the 900 yard target on which you could score 5 times. First round hits were worth 100 points, second round hits were worth 90 points, third round hits were worth 80 points etc... Each shooter was allowed 7 minutes to shoot the match and you had the option to quit after 4 minutes then resume where you left off with your remaining 3 minutes later in the event. All but two shooters shot straight thru their 7 minutes. The match was divided into ".308 Class" and "All Others".

Spotters were not allowed and each shooter was responsible for tracking their misses.

Dan did a nice job making sure everyone knew where the targets were in the range briefing. Three shooters were lined up prone as a shooter, an on deck shooter and next up shooter. The match flowed well and Dan did a nice job talking everyone thru the event helping with what target was next, round count, time remaining, etc ...

Things Done Well

Since I had just shot the Mammoth Sniper Challenge the weekend before my gear was all ready to go. I think everything functioned well and I didn't have any issues to speak of. It would have been possible to use 40 rounds in the worst case scenario and I shot 29 before running out of time while getting the bonus target on sight. I used both 10 round mags, a 5 round mag and I was one round away from top loading one round at a time. I either need to hit the targets sooner ☺ or get another 10 round mag. One person with a 700 5R inquired about my bottom metal installation because it functioned so well. I'd recommend the Surgeon DBM that I had installed by Long Rifles to anyone.

Things Done Poorly

It was crazy windy at the event. I hit the first torso at 625 yards on my first shot then failed to hit a target at 500 yards with 5 shots. I failed to hit the 740 yard and 780 yard targets then hit the 800, 1000 and 900 yard targets on my first or second shot. I could see all my misses off the left and right every time. I struggled with wind calls and changing wind conditions.

Results

There were 24 shooters entered in both classes combined and two shooters shot in both classes. I finished 7th of 11 shooters in .308 class. I feel like that was pretty awful but I think there were a few shooters there that shoot at Bangsteel.com pretty regularly - they probably did a better job than I at wind calls and holds. In general the scores of the .308 class averaged much lower than the scores of the "Other" class.

Lessons Learned

For the very windy conditions today (and no doubt common at Bangsteel.com) a different caliber would have been better. There were more people in the "Other" class competing with 6.5 Creedmoor, 6XC, 7mm and 300 Win Mags.

Notable Names

I got a chance to catch up with Jeremy Kahn of Kahntrol Solutions at the Match. I bought my muzzle break from Jeremy in person at the machine shop that he worked at over two years ago. Since then he has quit work at the machine shop and made Kahntrol Solutions his full time job. Business seems to be going well for him and we hope to do some BEST Targets and Kahntrol Solutions business together soon.

Summary

Although this was a good opportunity to get out and shoot I wish there had been more trigger time at the event OR it were closer to home. We drove 1 ½ hours each way for a match that started at 10 and ended at 3:30 but only shot for 7 minutes. Bangsteel.com is a great facility and Dan is a great host. I'll definitely go back again. I clearly need to work on my wind calls and holds and/or bring a bigger stick.

facebook.com/BestTargets
beststeeltargets@gmail.com