

# BEST TARGETS

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

**Event:** Rowan Practical Shooters 3-Gun, Tactical Division

**Date:** July 20, 2015

**Location:** Rowan Wildlife Club, Salisbury, NC

**Websites:** <http://www.rowanpracticalshooters.com/>  
[www.rcwanc.com](http://www.rcwanc.com)

**Shooter:** Scott Whitehead with Chuck Fogle

**Gear:** S&W M&P-15 AR-15, Kahntrol Solutions Muzzle Brake, Burris MTAC Optics  
Mossberg 930 JM Pro Shotgun, CZ75 SP01 Handgun

### **Facility Notes**

Rowan Wildlife Club is one of the nicest shooting clubs in North Carolina, with outstanding shotgun facilities, pistol bays, and long-range facilities, along with fishing and other outdoor activities. They host the Rowan Practical Shooters monthly USPSA match, which is already credited with being one of the best and most popular USPSA matches in the state.

### **Event Format**

This was the first 3-gun match that has been put on by RPS. It was intentionally kept small, and the hope was to iron out the bugs with a flexible format. For being a brand-new match, it ran nearly flawlessly, thanks to some great match directors and great volunteers. The match consisted of four stages in four 30 yard pistol bays, with each stage requiring all three guns to complete.

This was also my first 3-gun match. I'm very comfortable with the pistol in my hand from pistol matches, but the rifle and shotgun have a much lower level of familiarity to me. Before the match I prepared my rifle and shotgun as best I could ... I spent a little time practicing my shotgun reloads, and did some work on the loading port a few days before the event. The gun handling that comes second nature with the pistol was not there with the other guns though and that cost me.



### **Things Done Well**



All the rifle shots in the match were fairly long distance shots, with no real rifle run-n-gun. All the rifle shots were 25 yards and up, and were taken from various standing off-hand or barricade supported positions. I had a good zero for this distance, and nearly all my rifle shots were very good.

My pistol shots were also good. I made a mistake or two in the pistol sections of the match, but overall I shot them well. (My team partner Chuck had a better pistol plan in one stage, and his time showed it.)

## Things Done Poorly

The shotgun was definitely my weakness all day, and although the work I had done on it the days before had helped, it was not enough – a classic case of too little too late.



First and foremost was the shotgun's fit to my body. I had already dropped the comb in this shotgun as much as the included brackets would allow, but it still needs more. Several times I shouldered the shotgun and started shooting only to realize my misses were a result of my eye being too high, and seeing far too much of the site rib. I need to resolve this, or get a lot better at finding a natural sight picture. A rear sight might help too....

Second, I did practice some reloads, but never needed them. The two types of reloads I did need (a full gun load off the table and the use of my MatchSaver) I had not practiced, and in fact I installed my MatchSaver backwards! Shotgun practice has to include what to do when things go wrong, not just when things go right.

Some durability issues I was concerned about – mostly relating to feeding and cycling, proved not to be an issue during the match, but I need to shoot the shotgun more to ensure that it can truly be reliable because there is just too much time to be lost with shotgun failures.

## Results

I finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 40 shooters. Considering there were several veteran 3-gun competitors in the group, I was happy with that result, but I know that with some practice I can do a lot better. Clearly to improve my results I need more time, both live-fire, and dry-fire, behind the shotgun.

## Summary

Rowan's first 3-gun match was a success. The MDs ran a great match, and my goals of getting more experience and fine tuning my equipment both happened. It was a fun day with some great friends.

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