

FALL 2014

# LONG RANGE SHOOTING

## FROM THE EXPERTS

### Vortex Extreme

10 seconds remaining...5,4,3,2,1.. (insert air horn)

This is what JD and I heard the morning of August 1st at 8:50am at the Vortex Extreme, hosted at Spirit Ridge Rifle Golf (located in Tremonton, Utah).

We started out on our journey the morning before. We drove up to Salt Lake City and met up with our buddy Eric to check out the new shirts and hats that Tines Up was going to release. We then continued North. We needed to be in northern Utah by 4pm to get ready for the banquet dinner they were hosting for all the teams attending. There we met up with Landon (from Bullseye Precision/ returning champ from last year and a few years before that). Landon actually built and donated a custom 6.5x284 built on a trued Remington 700 action. It was a very beautiful rifle, and was to be awarded the next day to the best overall shooter at the competition.

There were 57 teams tallied at the dinner that night, with a few extras added to the guest list. At the dinner that night we were given range cards for the course and a lottery drawing for start times for each team.

It was great food, great entertainment, and some amazing prizes on the table for ticket holders. JD walked away with a very nice voucher for some kryptec camo, and I drew for some nice shooting bags. After dinner it was off to the motel to try and sleep with all the nerves weighing in on the next morning!

The next morning we were up by 6:30, eating by 7:15, and headed out the door to Spirit Ridge. We didn't start out very lucky and drew a start time of 8:50 am.

We arrived at the staging area a little early so we had some time to calm the nerves a bit, get signed in, and then get our packs ready. Each contestant had to carry his or her own rifle and pack, and you were allowed to take anything else that helped you shoot long range. We just had to keep in mind, the more we took, the more weight we had to carry.



>> JARON COLEMAN

>> BRANDON BARNEY

JD's equipment consisted of the following: Horn Hunter full curl pack, 280 Ackley Improved, built on a trued Remington 700 action, Boyd's thumbhole stock, Nosler brass, 168 vld Berger bullets, and a Vortex Viper HSLR 4-16 SFP scope.

Jaron's equipment was : Eberlestock J107 pack, 6.5x284 built on a trued Remington 700 action, Bell and Carlson A-5 stock, Lapua brass, 140 vld Berger bullets, and a Vortex Viper HSLR 6-24 FFP scope.

Between the two of us we also had a Vortex Razor HD 16-44x65mm spotting scope, and the new compact Vortex Summit SS tripod, a rear sand bag we shared back and forth, and our Harris bipods. Oh and not to forget the 26 rounds of ammo for each shooter.

The course was around 7.5 miles or so, with some grueling obstacles along the way. We started out of the main gate and headed down through the flats to station #1. Here we got one shot at each target, hit or miss to move on. We shot at 300, 500, 700, 900, 1000 yards, and a bonus shot at 1200 yards. After we were cleared for safety, we threw the packs on and headed down the trail to come to the biggest obstacle, The Widow Maker! A steep, rocky, nasty hill that rose above the valley floor 800'-900', although it felt like a mile.

We got to choose our own route up the hill, but were required to pass through three checkpoints along the way up to the summit.

WWW.TROPHYHUNTERMAG.COM



Up and over the top and down to station #2 where we had three shots at 740 yards and a bonus shot at 550 yards. It was about a mile down the trail to station #3. There we got three shots at the target at 1000 yards, and a bonus shot, standing off hand at 230 yards which is tougher than shooting 1000 yards with these big rifles! Up a short bit to station #4 we got to shoot three shots at 441 yards and a bonus off hand sitting position at 213 yards.

After shooting at station four and passing a couple other teams along the way, we had to jump a fence and go down through a place nicknamed "the dust bowl" and with all the ATV's and foot traffic that travel the trail, it definitely lived up to its name!

Station #5 had us shooting three shots at 700 yards and a bonus prone shot at 400 yards. Then, it was off to Station #6 (final station). Station #6 yielded a few options for the competitors. For the first three shots the shooter could choose to shoot at three different distances (1720, 900, 700) all being different point values, with a bonus shot at 500 yards.

Now, keep in mind that at each station each shooter was required to shoot, and we, as a team, were only given eight minutes to complete each station. Any time standing around before we stepped on the concrete platform, either talking about target approach and location or getting equipment ready, only counted as part of our overall time.

After all the shots were fired we had about a three mile hike back to the finish line, and along the way we had a bonus station to stop and field judge a buck for a score worth five points if you could judge within + or - 5" of his actual score.

After four hours of putting boots on the ground and 85+ degree weather, JD and I were some tired ole boys! But, we had a blast (literally). We got to meet up with some old friends, meet some new faces, and even had to borrow some earplugs after an unfortunate event between stages four and five. JD pulled out the lifesavers between four and five-some heaven sent Hi Chews!

JD and I would like to thank our sponsors Tines Up/ Trophy Hunter for getting us into the competition and our wives for putting up with our habits and absence while gone shooting. Thanks to Vortex for the opportunity to come to the competition and meet with crazy minded people like ourselves, and for some of the most amazing optics out there. Berger Bullets are simply the best! We couldn't shoot the way we do without them being in the chamber. And thanks to Spirit Ridge for hosting and all the prep work that goes into putting on an event like this.

Thanks for reading, and as always, keep your barrels warm.



**It's Golf With A  
gun, An ATV, And  
NO Dress Code!**

