

Short interview with Ed Adams - 2019 Cactus Classic 2-Gun Champion.

Ed is a veteran short range shooter who has achieved much success. As Ed pointed out in our discussion that wasn't always the case, however he worked at it and is now considered one of the shooters usually in contention for the top prize.

Ed who lives in Albuquerque NM. Shoot's at the Ben Avery Range maybe 2 times a year at most. This year he came over for the cactus warm-up match a Light Varmint and Heavy Varmint match, same format as the Cactus match in February. At the start of my interview I reminded Ed of his lack of outstanding performance at that match. The reason I brought it up I was interested in how he turned it around from a slightly better than average performance at a small match to his domination of the best attended 2 day match, with top flight shooters in benchrest. I also wanted to remind him he doesn't walk on water.

Ed was candid in letting me know that the warm-up match was just that for him. He came over to Arizona to test his equipment and his shooting skill. He discovered that he needed to pay attention to his gun handling. It's very easy to get off track with the basics in such a demanding shooting discipline as short range group shooting. Ed shoots what I will call extreme free recoil. He gets into position, places the crosshairs where he wants, lifts his head off the gun, watches the conditions and touches the trigger when he thinks it looks just right. He has shot that way for years. He also pointed out you can only do that when you have complete confidence in your rest/bags and rifle set-up. He has tried several rests and he's now back to using a set-up of a Hart rest with a windage adjustment top and a speed screw for vertical adjustment. It was a successful combination in the past and it worked really well at the cactus 2019.

The other interesting bit of information is that Ed takes and maintains detailed notes of his match performance at various ranges he competes on. He will log the shooting conditions, his loading data and the results of his performance. Over the years he's developed a base of load data that works for various ranges. An example how this note taking paid off; at one point during the LV 200 yard stage he felt that shots weren't going where he thought that they should and he felt that his gun management was on track. He checked his notes and saw that on previous occasions, a lighter load of his VV133 powder would shot well, so he went down in powder charge; shot 2 nice groups on the end to win the LV Grand. He also pointed out when in the thick of competition, never give up. If it's not working the way you want go to your NOTES and make a proven change. His loads of VV 133 were between 27.8 and 28.3; don't quote me on this as this is from my memory of our discussion. He also said he will test a change on the sighter before he uses the change on the record.

He usually doesn't change bullet seating depth as he's discovered that the bullet seating he uses usually works with most of the barrels; Krieger or Bartlein. His LV gun was a Krieger barrel and the HV gun was a Bartlein. He also said he shoots Chuck Miller bullets. The LV is built on a Scarbrough stock and the HV is built on a Kelbly Klub stock with a weight in the stock to give the gun a good balance on the sand bags.

Ed does his own gunsmithing. He shot Leupold 45x scopes on both guns. He didn't use a tuner on either barrel. It's not that he thinks they don't work, he just didn't use one this time.

My conclusion from this is: Don't get discouraged when it's not working. Don't give up. Take notes of your performance, good and not so good for future reference. I'll add something on my own, get good at your gun handling what ever style you use. Sometimes it pays to get back to basics.

Gary Ocock