

# 2023 Spirit of America (National Fullbore Championship) Match Sponsored by the Bald Eagles Rifle Club

Estimate approximately 100 competitors

**Dates:** September 7, 2023, thru September 15, 2023

**Location:** George Tubb Range, NRA Whittington Center, Raton, New Mexico. The range is located 4 miles west of I-25 on US 64 south and west of Raton.

**General Information:** There are currently 254 beds available for housing at the Whittington Center. There is a Recreational Vehicle campground that is equipped with full hookups. Reservations should be made at the following: NRA Whittington Center P. O. Box 700, Raton, New Mexico 87740, Phone: 575-445-3615, Fax 575-445-9418. The center will begin accepting housing reservations after February 1, 2023. More information on the Center is available on the web at <http://www.nrawc.org/>. Additional housing is available at many motels in nearby Raton, New Mexico.

**Entries:** Advanced entries are recommended. The Bald Eagles Rifle Club does not accept PayPal, anymore. You may mail your payment to Bald Eagles Rifle Club, Attn: Randy Pike, P.O. Box 701266, San Antonio, TX 78270. Team entry forms will be available, at the range, the day before the Team matches.

**Entry Closing Date :**

Entries close August 26, 2023. the entry must reach Randy Pike by the 25th.

**Cancellation Policy:**

There will be a \$20 non refundable cancellation fee on all cancellations. Anyone who has not canceled three days prior to the first day of the Competition will forfeit their entire entry fee. Cancellations will be accepted by emailing: Randy Pike at [baldeaglesrc@hotmail.com](mailto:baldeaglesrc@hotmail.com).

**Categories:** Target rifle; F-Class (Open); F-Class (T/R). There will be separate awards for each category. F-Class (T/R) may be combined with F-Class (Open) if there are insufficient entries to support a separate category. Please note that this match is NRA Registered.

**Rules:** The rule book for NRA International Fullbore Rifle/NRA H.P. & F-Class will be used.

These Rule Books are available on the internet at: <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/nra-rule-books.asp>.

**Competitor Eligibility:** This competition is open to all. All competitors (including International shooters) are encouraged to join the NRA-USA. Applications are available online at [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org). Cost for 1-year membership is \$45.00. NRA-USA membership is required for setting National Records.

**Competitor Classifications:** This is a classified match and will be conducted using the current NRA International Fullbore Rifle Classification system in all matches. High Masters will have to register as Masters if they do not have a Fullbore classification.

**Challenge Fees:** Challenge fees on the firing line will be \$5.00 paid at the time challenge is made, refundable if the shooter wins the challenge. A three -person jury system will make any necessary rule interpretations/applications. The match director will post the names of the jury members at the event.

**Ammunition:** Individuals must provide their own ammunition. All ammunition is subject to testing.

- **Target Rifle:** For the SOA & RMP, only, the bullet weight for the .308/7.62 must be less than 156 grains and the bullet weight for the .223/5.56 must be less than 92 grains.
- **F-Class:** Ammunition must comply with rule 3.17.

**Target Service:** Competitors will be required to mark targets in individual matches unless assigned to other duties or are exempted from target service by the Match Director. Competitors may be assigned to pull target points different than their assigned firing point. Grand seniors (70 years and older) are not required to pull targets but may be asked to help on the firing line or pits. ***Any competitor failing to perform his/her target pulling or scoring duties may be disqualified.*** There are no paid pullers available. However, you may bring someone to pull for you at **YOUR OWN EXPENSE, YOU WILL STILL BE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE PITS FOR OTHER DUTIES, UNLESS YOU ARE ASSIGNED LINE DUTIES.**

**Bald Eagles Rifle Club Code of Conduct:** The safety of fellow competitors, match officials, volunteers, and bystanders, shall always be the primary objective. Competitors are expected to be familiar with and follow the NRA Fullbore Prone Rifle Rules, NRA safe firearms handling rules, and policies and procedures set by NRA Whittington Center (NRA-WC), and the Bald Eagles Rifle Club (BERC).

1. A competitor who is or appears to be under the influence of perception-altering substances will not be allowed to compete or otherwise handle firearms.
2. Competitors will refrain from talking, disrupting, or interfering with the daily safety briefing or any other announcements made during or prior to the start of the event.
3. During the match, competitors will refrain from actions that distract the shooters, safety officers, and other competitors.
4. Competitors will not communicate with others in a threatening, harassing, or abusive manner. If there is a question or other issue(s), the first contact will be with the Chief Range Officer.
5. Violation of this Code of Conduct will be dealt with by the Match Director in accordance with the NRA International Fullbore Prone Rifle rules and, as necessary, in coordination with the Bald Eagles Rifle Club Board of Directors.

#### **Range Procedures:**

● **Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI):** Safety is paramount! Rifles will have actions open, magazines removed, and an ECI inserted into the chamber at **all times**, except when on the firing line during the preparation period, or during live firing. ECIs will be available for \$1.00.

● **Procedure for Clearing the Line:** At no time is a competitor to leave the firing line with a loaded rifle! All competitors are responsible for safe rifles while on the firing line. **At no time should a competitor get out of position without having first placed an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) into the empty chamber of his/her rifle. This must be verified by the competitor's scorekeeper. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification for both competitor and scorekeeper.**

● **Preparation Period:** Once the competitors have their relay called to the line they may place all their equipment on the line, except their rifles. Rifles must stay behind the ready line until the *two*

*minute warning* has been given. When given the *two minute warning*, the competitors may bring their rifles to the line. The empty chamber indicator (ECI) must remain in the rifle until the *three minute preparation period* has been called. The ECI may be removed, but no ammunition may be loaded during the *three minute preparation period*. **Anyone who fires a shot during the preparation period will be scored a miss for the first record shot of that match. They will also receive no further sighting or practice shots. Anyone who fires a shot prior to the preparation period or any other non-firing period will be disqualified from the competition.**

- **Blow-Off Period:** There will be a one minute blow-off for each relay at the beginning of each day in the SOA Individual and team matches. Shots fired during the blow-off must impact the earthen berm behind the targets. There will be no firing before sunrise or after sunset on any range on the Whittington Center.
- **Hearing and Eye Protection:** Hearing and eye protection is recommended on the firing line and in the pits. A billed hat is also recommended.
- **Cellphone use is prohibited when firing, scoring, or performing pitt duties (rule 3.23).** Use of a cell phone to keep time is permitted only when “cellular data” is turned off, i.e., the phone is in “Airplane Mode”.
- Speed limit on range roads is 15 mph.
- Competitors must use the range busses to go to and from the pits.
- **Squadding:** All matches will be squadded by the Statistical Officer. Squadding will be available one hour before the start of the match.
- **Daily start time:** All competitors must report to the statistical office by 7:30 AM every day. Matches will start at 8:00 AM each day unless the Match Director makes an announcement prior to the end of the match on the previous day.
- **Challenge period:** Preliminary scores for the daily matches will be posted after 8:00 PM at <http://www.baldeaglesrc.org>. The Challenge Period ends at 7:15 AM the following day. On banquet/ceremony days, a paper copy of the preliminary scores will be posted at the statistical office approximately one and a half (1.5) hours after that day's firing.

**Special Accommodations:** Special provisions may be made for competitors who enter the match as a Handicapped Competitor and/or a competitor who qualifies as a Grand Senior. Every attempt will be made to accommodate competitors with special needs such as sharing equipment, providing such needs are made known in a timely fashion. Sharing rides will not usually require special accommodations in as much as bus transportation to and from the pits will be provided. Parking behind each firing line is permitted. *Competitors must make arrangements with companions to move their vehicles if the driver is in the pits during a line change.*

**Targets:** 300 yards – MR63; 500 yards – MR65; 600 yards – MR1; 900 & 1000 yards LR targets.  
**F-Class :** 300 yards – MR63FC; 500 yards - MR65FC; 600 yards - MR1FC; 900 & 1000 yards; LR-FC.

**Awards:** Winners of individual matches, and during the SOA team events, will be recognized after the challenge period has ended (the following morning).

- **Classification awards:** For grand aggregate matches only provided there are a minimum of five competitors within a classification (by rifle type, where F/TR and F/O may be combined). Classes will be combined upward as required except that the High Master Class will not be combined. If less than five competitors in the High Master classification, they will fire for place awards only. Competitors winning a place award will not receive a class award in the same match. The number of awards is determined by the number in the class. Second place and so forth awards will be given based on one award for each five (5) competitors, i.e. second 6-10, third 11-15, etc.
- **Special Individual Awards:** High Junior, Senior, Grand Senior, Woman and Service will be awarded when 5 or more competitors are entered in any special category. Special Individual Awards are given only for the Grand Aggregate. ***Service is defined as: Active Duty, Reserve or National Guard, Retired US Military, or Veteran of US Military for SOA only.***
- **Banquet and/or ceremony:** Specifics regarding type/time/location will be posted during the event. If a dinner is held, guests will be charged \$20.00. Wednesday, September 13th, will be the dinner/awards ceremony for SOA both individual and team matches. Awards will be given for the individual matches and the team matches immediately following the challenge period on the day the matches are fired.

- **Awards Schedule:**

- ♥ *Daily aggregates, Camaraderie Trophy (#3); U.S. Armed Forces Trophy (#6); The Freedom Trophy (#9); and the End of the Trail Trophy (#12).*
- ♥ *The Spirit of America Championship:* The Grand Aggregate of the 4 daily aggregates: Matches #3, #6, #9, and #12 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.
- ♥ *The Spirit of America Short Range Championship Trophy:* The aggregate of matches #1, #4, #7, and #10 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.
- ♥ *The Spirit of America Long Range Championship Trophy:* The aggregate of matches #2, #5, #8, and #11 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.
- ♥ *The Spirit of America Combined Four Person Team Match Championship Trophy:* To be eligible for this award, a team shall register under the same name for all 4-person team matches with up to 6 team members on the team. There shall be 4 firing members and a designated coach and captain. The same team members must be on the team for all 4-person team matches, but individual designation of captain, coach, firing members and alternates may change.
- ♥ *The Spirit of America Championship Grand Aggregate:* High Service Rifle, High Woman, High Senior, High Grand Senior, and Grand Aggregate Winner.

**Final Awards Bulletin:** A final bulletin for all matches (Spirit of America,) will be posted on the Bald Eagles Rifle Club website ([http:// baldeaglesrc.org.](http://baldeaglesrc.org)) by September 30.

- **Door Prizes:** Donated merchandise prizes will be awarded by random drawing at the award dinner/ ceremony. Winners must be present to win.

- **Course of Fire and Schedule:** Dates and Courses of fire by match are detailed below:

## **2023 Spirit of America (National Fullbore Championships)**

### **SOA Team Day 1**

**Thursday, September 7, 2023**

Match T1

*The Cimarron 4 Person Team Match*

Stages at 300, 600, 900, and 1000 yards

A team shall consist of four firing members, a Team Captain and Coach who may be firing members. Each firing member to fire 2 convertible sighting shots and 10 shots for record at 300, 600, 900 & 1000 yards. Time limit at the short ranges will be 27 minutes per firing pair and at the long ranges 33 minutes per firing pair. The team times are before and after the pit changes. All competitors are encouraged to participate in the Team Matches.

### **SOA Team Day 2**

**Friday, September 8, 2023**

Match T-2

*The Angel Fire 4 Person Team Match*

Stages at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards

Team number T-2 match is identical to T-1. "Same course of fire and same time limits."

### **SOA Team Day 3**

**Saturday, September 9, 2023**

Match T-3

*The Raton 4 Person Team Match*

Stages at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards

*Team number T-3 match is identical to T-1. "Same course of fire and same time limits. T-4 is the Aggregate of Matches #1 and #2.*

## **Spirit of America Individual Matches**

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

Match #1

300, 500, and 600 yards

300, 500 and 600 yards pair firing (two to the mound) ; 2 convertible sighting shots and 10 shots for record

at each firing line. Relays 1 and 3 will be the shooter on the right, 3 and 4 on the left. Each shooter will be expected to fire within 45 seconds from the time the previous score is accepted.

Match #2

900 yards

900 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record, string firing in a time limit of 22.5 minutes. Scorekeepers will not be allowed to use their rifle scope to score.

Match #3 – Daily aggregate #1  
*Camaraderie Trophy Match*  
The aggregate of Matches #1 and #2

**Monday, September 11, 2023**

Match #4

300, 500 and 600 yards

300, 500 and 600 yards pair firing, (two on the mound); The same course of fire as Match #1.

Match #5

1000 yards

1000 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record; 22.5 minute time limit, string firing. Scorekeepers will not be allowed to use their rifle scope to score.

Match #6 - Daily aggregate #2  
*An Aggregate of Matches 4 and 5*

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

Match #7

300, 500, 600 yards

300, 500 and 600 yards pair firing (two to the mound); The same course of fire as Match #1.

Match# 8

900 yards

900 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record, 22.5 minutes string firing. Score keepers will not be allowed to use their rifle scope to score.

Match# 9 Daily Aggregate #3  
The Freedom Trophy Match  
*An Aggregate of Matches #7 and #8*

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

Match #10

300, 500, 600 yards

*300,500 and 600 yards pair firing (2 to the mound) The same course of fire as Match #1*

**Match #11**

1000 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record, 22.5 minutes string firing. Score keepers will not be allowed to use their rifle scopes to score.

*Match #12 – Daily Aggregate #4  
The End of the Trail Trophy Match  
An Aggregate of Matches 10 and 11*

**Championship Trophies:**

*The Spirit of America Championship*

The Grand Aggregate of the 4 daily Aggregates: Matches #3, #6, #9, and #12 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.

*The Spirit of America Short Range Championship Trophy*

The Aggregate of Matches #1, #4, #7 and #10 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.

*The Spirit of America Long Range Championship Trophy*

The Aggregate of Matches #2, #5, #8 and #11 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.

*The Spirit of America Combined Four Person Team Match Championship Trophy*

To be eligible for this award, a team shall register under the same name for all 4-person team matches with up to 6 members on the team. There shall be 4 firing members and a designated coach and captain. The same team members must be on the team for all 4-person team matches, but individual designation of captain, coach, firing members and alternates may change.

*Awards Dinner/Ceremony*

The Awards Dinner/Ceremony for the Spirit of America Match will be held Wednesday, September 13, 2022, at a place and time to be announced at the Competitors Meeting in the morning.

## **Addendum # 1**

**The Bald Eagles Membership Meeting** and election of officers will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 following the daily awards presentation. Everyone can attend. Only regular members can vote.

**Merchandise Prizes** will be awarded as door prizes at the Awards Dinner. Competitors must be present to win.

**Match Bulletins** will be available on line at: [www.baldeaglesrc.org](http://www.baldeaglesrc.org) one week after completion of the matches.

At the end of each daily match it would be appreciated if Competitors could help put the range in order for the next day's matches.

We all have to "Roll with the Punches." So, be prepared for last minute changes and announcements. Any changes will be announced at the competitors safety brief every morning at the Eagles Nest.

**2023 Registration and Entry Form for Bald Eagles Rifle Club  
Spirit of America Matches**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ NRA # \_\_\_\_\_

Fullbore Classification \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Long Range Classification will be used if you don't have a Fullbore Classification apart from High Masters. See page 1, Competitor Classifications in the Match Program.)

Rifle Type: Palma \_\_\_\_\_ F-Class Open \_\_\_\_\_ F-Class T/R \_\_\_\_\_

Check: Right Handed \_\_\_\_\_ Left Handed \_\_\_\_\_

Woman \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Disabled \_\_\_\_\_

Service Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ National Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Retired Military \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirts maybe purchased on the first day of the individual championship. \$40 for the old sweatshirt, \$45 for the anniversary sweatshirt.

**Check the Matches you are entering:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Spirit of America Full Match \$250.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Daily Match One Day \$100.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Two Days \$200.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Junior \$70.00

Total Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Send checks payable in U.S. funds to: Bald Eagles Rifle Club

Mail Entries to: Attn: Randy Pike, P.O. Box 701266, San Antonio, TX 78270

**Team Match Fees will be collected at the range, the day prior to the match. The fee for each team will be \$120.00.**