

2026 Spirit of America – US National Fullbore Championships

Team and Individual Matches

Sponsored by the Bald Eagles Rifle Club
NRA Whittington Center Raton, New Mexico

September 10, 2026, through September 17, 2026

General Information:

The events will be held at the 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. There are currently 254 beds available for housing at the Whittington Center. There is an RV 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. More information on the Center is available at <http://www.nrawc.org/>. Additional housing is available at many motels in nearby Raton, New Mexico.

International Competitors:

For any questions or concerns, please contact: Bald Eagles Rifle Club President Randy Pike:
baldeaglesrc@hotmail.com or 210-288-3515.

Entries:

Advance online entries and payment are recommended and preferred. Individual and team entry forms may be completed online prior to the event or at the range the day before the matches. Entries will be accepted starting on April 1, 2026. Register online at <https://www.baldeaglesrc.org/>

Please mail your individual fees payment to Bald Eagles Rifle Club, ATTN: Russ Jones, 118 Red Man Rd, Jacksonville, NC 28546. Team fees will be collected the day prior to the team event. **Mail-in entries close August 15, 2026, so individual entries and funds must be received by that date.** Team fees will be collected on the range the day before the event.

Cancellation Policy:

There will be a \$25 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 baldeaglesrc@hotmail.com.

Competitor Expectations:

All competitors are responsible for the contents of the match program, match directives and NRA Fullbore Rules. A lack of sportsmanlike behavior or respect for volunteers will not be tolerated. Everyone working the match is a volunteer, and please be prepared to go with the flow as needed to allow for a successful event. 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. Any changes will be announced at the competitor safety brief every morning at the Eagles Nest.

The Bald Eagles Membership Meeting:

The membership meeting and election of officers will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, after match completion. Everyone is encouraged to attend to voice their concerns and opinions. Only current members can vote in accordance with Bald Eagles Rifle Club Bylaws.

Categories:

Target rifle, F/O, F/TR. There will be separate awards for each category. The two F-Class categories may be combined if there are insufficient entries to support separate categories. Please note that the Spirit of America matches are NRA Registered matches.

Rules:

The rule books for NRA International Fullbore Rifle/F-Class will be used, available online at:

https://competitions.nra.org/media/9997/2025-fullbore_rulebook.pdf

https://competitions.nra.org/media/10178/2025-f-class_rulebook.pdf

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. Cost for 1-year membership is still \$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. Long Range classification will be used if you do not have a Fullbore classification. 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 USD 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 SOA 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 3.1(a) and (b) in the F-Class Rulebook.

Target Service:

For team matches we will be using Shot Marker electronic targets, so a tablet or smartphone is required for the coach and scorekeeper to view shots. The shooter using a tablet or smartphone is optional. It is possible that Shot Marker electronic targets may be used for individual matches as well and competitors will be responsible for supplying their own electronic device for scoring. Competitors may 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 in the pits. ***Any competitor failing to perform their 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 EXPENSE, and you will still be required to go to the Pits** to be responsible for their performance.

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).

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. During the match competitors will refrain from actions that distract the shooters, safety officers, and other competitors.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- **Time Limits for pair firing (Rule 8.2.2):** The time allowance for individual shooting will be 45 seconds per shot for all ranges. The time allowed starts from the command to commence fire and the target is raised in the case of the first shot by the first competitor. On subsequent shots, the time allowed starts from the time the target has been scored and recorded for the previous shot. When a competitor has been timed by a range official and has exceeded the allowed time limit, the competitor will be warned ONE time without penalty. When a competitor exceeds the allowed time after the first warning, the range official will forfeit the value of that shot for that

competitor. In the event of an odd number of shooters, one target will be squadded three to the mound. No shooter will be permitted to shoot string fire.

- **Hearing and Eye Protection:** Hearing and eye protection is recommended on the firing line and in the pits. A billed hat is also recommended.
- **Speed limit** on range roads is 15 mph.
- **Range buses:** Unless there are fewer than 35 shooters, competitors **must** use range buses for transportation to and from the pits.
- **Cellphone use:** Cellphone use is prohibited when firing, scoring or performing pit duties (Rule 3.23) unless electronic targets are in use.
- **Squadding:** All matches will be squadded by the Statistical Officer. Squadding will be available one hour before the start of the match, as conditions allow. After initial target assignment, shooting pairs will move two targets to the right on subsequent firing lines.
- **Daily start time:** All competitors must report to the statistical office by 7:30 a.m. each day. Matches will start at 8:00 a.m. 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 at the range within one hour after last score card is collected for the day and at <http://www.baldeaglesrc.org> homepage by 8pm daily. The Challenge Period ends at 7:15 a.m. the following day. On banquet/ceremony days, a paper copy of the preliminary scores will be posted at the statistical office approximately (2) 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. Provided such needs are made known in a timely fashion, every attempt will be made to accommodate competitors with special needs such as sharing equipment. Sharing rides will not usually require special accommodation. 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.

Match Bulletins: Will be available On the wall outside the Eagles Nest and online at: <https://www.baldeaglesrc.org/>.

Awards: Winners of individual matches and/or SOA team events will be recognized after the challenge period on the next individual or team day during the morning range and safety briefing. Daily Aggregate awards will be presented at the SOA banquet.

- **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 fewer 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 Veteran will be awarded when 5 or more competitors are entered in any special category. Special Individual

Awards are given only for the Grand Aggregate. **Veteran/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: Details for the dinner and awards ceremony will be announced and posted during the event. Individual fees cover shooter costs, but guests will be charged \$25.00. Merchandise prizes will be awarded as door prizes at the Awards Dinner. Competitors must be present to win.

Banquet Awards Schedule:

- Day 4 individual awards for short and long range.
- *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.
- *Daily aggregates, Camaraderie Trophy (#100); U.S. Armed Forces Trophy (#200); The Freedom Trophy (#300); and the End of the Trail Trophy (#400).*
- *The Spirit of America Short Range Championship Trophy:* The aggregate of match #s 101-103, 201-203, 301-303 and 401-403 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.
- *The Spirit of America Long Range Championship Trophy:* The aggregate of match #s 104, 204, 304 and 404 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.
- *The Spirit of America Championship Grand Aggregate:* High Veteran/Service, High Woman, High Senior, High Grand Senior, and Grand Aggregate Winner.
- *The Spirit of America Championship:* The Grand Aggregate of the 4 daily aggregates: Match #s 100, 200, 300 and 400 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.

Final Awards Bulletin: A final bulletin for all Spirit of America matches will be posted on the Bald Eagles Rifle Club website page at <https://www.baldeaglesrc.org/> by September 30, 2026.

Course of Fire and Schedule: Dates and Courses of fire by match are detailed later in the program.

SOA Championship Trophies:

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.

The Spirit of America Short Range Championship Trophy

The Aggregate of Match #s 101-103, 201-203, 301-303 and 401-403 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.

The Spirit of America Long Range Championship Trophy

The Aggregate of Match #s 104, 204, 304 and 404 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.

The Spirit of America Championship

The Grand Aggregate of the 4 daily Aggregates: Match #s 100, 200, 300 and 400 in both Target Rifle and F-Class Categories.

2026 Spirit of America (National Fullbore Championships) Schedule

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Range Setup/Training

SOA Team Day 1

Friday, September 11, 2026

Match T-1

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

Saturday, September 12, 2026

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

Sunday, September 13, 2026

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.

SOA Individuals Day 1

Monday, September 14, 2026

Match #s 101, 102, 103

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, 2 and 4 on the left. Each shooter will be expected to fire within 45 seconds from the time the previous score is accepted.

Match #104

900 yards

900 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record, pair firing (two to the mound). The time allowance is 45 seconds from the time the previous score is accepted.

Match #3 – Daily Aggregate #100

Camaraderie Trophy Match

The aggregate of Match #s101, 102, 103 and 104

SOA Individuals Day 2
Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Match #s 201, 202, 203
300, 500 and 600 yards

300-, 500- and 600-yards pair firing, (two to the mound); The same course of fire as Matches 101-103.

Match #204
1000 yards

1000 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record, pair firing (two to the mound). The time allowance is 45 seconds from the time the previous score is accepted.

Match #200 - Daily Aggregate #2
US Armed Forces Trophy Match
An Aggregate of Matches 201 through 204

SOA Individuals Day 3
Wednesday September 16, 2026

Match #2 301, 302, 303
300, 500, 600 yards

300-, 500- and 600-yards pair firing (two to the mound); the same course of fire as Matches 101-103.

Match #304
900 yards

900 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record, pair firing (two to the mound). The time allowance is 45 seconds from the time the previous score is accepted.

Match #300 - Daily Aggregate #3
The Freedom Trophy Match
An Aggregate of Matches 301 through 304

SOA Individuals Day 4
Thursday, September 17, 2026

Match #s 401, 402, 403
300, 500, 600 yards

300,500- and 600-yards pair firing (two to the mound); the same course of fire as Matches 101-103.

Match #404

1000 yards, 2 convertible sighting shots and 15 shots for record, pair firing (two to the mound). The time allowance is 45 seconds from the time the previous score is accepted.

Match #400 – Daily Aggregate #4
The End of the Trail Trophy Match
An Aggregate of Matches 401 through 404.

Advance online entries are recommended and preferred. If unable to enter online, print and complete the individual entry form below. Mail completed form to:

Bald Eagles Rifle Club
ATTN: Russ Jones,
118 Red Man Rd,
Jacksonville, NC 28546

Full payment, in US funds, must accompany all entries. Make checks payable to Bald Eagles Rifle Club. Entries will be accepted starting April 1, 2026 and funds must be received by August 15, 2026.

**2026 INDIVIDUAL Entry Form for Bald Eagles Rifle Club
Spirit of America Matches**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____ NRA # _____

Fullbore Classification (refer to match program) _____

Rifle Type: Palma _____ F/O _____ F/TR _____

Right-Handed _____ Left-Handed _____

Woman _____ Junior _____ Senior _____ Grand Senior _____ Disabled _____

Veteran (includes Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, Retired Military) _____

Check the Matches you are entering:

_____ Spirit of America Full Match \$350.00

_____ Daily Match One Day \$200.00 Please note which day _____

_____ Two Days \$300.00 Please note which days _____

_____ Junior \$100.00

_____ **Total fee enclosed**