

Public Statement Regarding Jon Wilson's Untrue Allegations

I will first begin by apologizing to those who have come to enjoy the Sport of Fast Draw in any form and simply wish to converse with others who share their passion on a public forum such as a Facebook Page. For those who are new to the sport or are just thinking of getting involved, please don't let this detour you, there are a lot of great and wonderful people in all of the various Fast Draw organizations, pick one and get involved.

For over 3 years now, I have remained publicly silent regarding the vicious and vulgar personal attacks carried out by disgruntled former CFDA member Jon Wilson. The following is a public statement of my opinions and observations, which will not be allowed to digress into a direct public conversation with Jon Wilson, no matter how much pressure he attempts to apply. It is well documented that any such attempt to have a public conversation with Jon Wilson quickly disintegrates into non-factual distortions, name-calling and personal attacks with anyone who does not agree with his views on almost any subject. Wilson's attacks, until recently, had been confined to a Closed Facebook Group, which I've tried my best to ignore. Now that he has been allowed to continue his slanderous remarks on an Open Facebook Group Page, which can be viewed by anyone in the general public, including anyone interested in the sport or even my grandchildren. His attempts at slanderous statements and cyber-bullying on public forums shall no longer go unchallenged.

My Background for the Record...

I have been involved in the sport since I was a teenager beginning in 1968 and have loved it ever since. I've dedicated many years of my life to it, not only as a shooter, but I've given back to the sport many times over by holding elected office in both the Mid-Western Fast Draw Association, as a Vice Chairman, Western Fast Draw Association as a Vice Chairman and Treasurer, and then after the two organizations merged into the World Fast Draw Association as Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman. I've also promoted and hosted over 20 WFDA State, National, and World Championships. It's been my life's passion to promote shooting sports and to further the education to as many people as possible in the safe and proper use of firearms.

After my first 15 years in Fast Draw, I left it for almost a decade and focused my efforts on Practical Pistol Shooting. Where not only did I excel as a

competitor, but also created and served as Match Director for the Western States IPSC Championship the 2nd largest USPSA match in the nation at the time with 300 shooters and a waiting list of 150 trying to get into the match. I also served as President of the Sierra Nevada Pistol League for 9 years. As a competitor I won numerous matches as an IPSC Master and was placed on the U.S.P.S.A. National Team and which represented the U.S.A. in Adelaide, Australia in 1990 where I won a Gold Medal in an individual stage.

In 1991, I returned to the WFDA and was elected Secretary in 1992. The sport had endured a rapid decline during the 1980's. They were only having 1 or 2 Chairman Sanctioned matches a year, the corporation had been allowed to expire, the rule book and records were a hodge-podge of pasted copies, and we were down to 108 members.

I spent two years working with the Chairman Richard Smith Hughes and Treasurer Johnny Owen reestablishing, reorganizing and rebuilding the organization. I was then elected as Chairman in 1994, with Ron Bright as Secretary and Richard Smith Hughes as Treasurer we managed a steady increase in the WFDA in both memberships and Chairman Sanctioned Contests. Ron Bright and I stayed on for the next term and Ron Phillips became our Treasurer. Together, and with the help of many members, we built the WFDA into over 800 members and 8 to 12 Chairman Sanctioned Contests each year. During that period we also had the biggest and best prize structures in the history of the sport. With the help of Larry Jelinek we created Top Gun Magazine in a real magazine format.

I learned while serving as Chairman of the WFDA, that all you had to do to make enemies was to enforce the rules. I also made the mistake of believing that being the administrator of a sport should be considered separate from being a competitor of a sport. Just because I could accomplish this in my own mind, didn't mean that others could. As a competitor, I had a very fortunate and dominant run in the mid-90's and won 23 major titles in the span of just a few years. In 1996, a small but very vocal group formed and made an accusation of cheating against me. They believed that I was twist-fanning the gun in Traditional Style Elimination Contests and put together what they thought was video evidence, that they tried to hang me with at a B.O.D. meeting they called. There, they showed the video tape upon which they were basing their claim, it was a clear distortion and I explained to the B.O.D. why it was a distortion. Their accusation was not supported by the

B.O.D. and failed. The accusation, and the way it was carried out, really bothered me and the next morning, I called a meeting of all present members and removed my Chairman's Badge and put it on the table in front of me and offered my resignation. The members overwhelmingly pleaded with me not to resign, and when I picked up the badge they applauded and yelled, "This is over!" But, I must admit that it damaged my soul a bit, but I recovered. I fulfilled my commitment as Chairman and went onto other things.

In 1998, I decided to jump into Cowboy Action Shooting, where as a competitor I had great success in winning Overall Championships and also won a National Championship. But more importantly, I founded a club in Northern Nevada, built a shooting range, and was the Match Director for 9 years of the Western States SASS Championship. My most rewarding accomplishment was creating the SASS Range Officer's Course and serving as Chairman of the SASS RO Committee for 9 years and was in charge of writing and regulating their rules during this period. In 2011, I was inducted into the SASS Hall of Fame, in a wonderful ceremony in Las Vegas. I was proud to see my old Fast Draw friends Ron Bright, Tom Blasgen and Bob Arganbright in the audience at this induction ceremony, because they knew me when I started Fast Draw as a kid in the 60's.

In 2002, I took notice when Brad Hemmah founded and formed the Cowboy Fast Draw Association, he called asking my advice on many issues. He formed CFDA as a LLC in a business format, believing that the best way to run an organization is to run it like a business and keep it free from politics. Many might be surprised to learn that SASS is also set up in almost the same manner. I liked the simple format and the grass-roots appeal for both equipment and attitude that he initially built into the sport. I have always believed that Fast Draw is the most promotable gun-sport in the world, because it can be done almost anywhere. In 2006, I teamed up with Shoot Magazine and we made a partnership proposal to Brad. Because of career and family issues Brad and his wife Susan made the decision to sell the organization to us outright. At that time the organization had about 300 members, at Membership #1000, we started issuing numbered badges, we are now at about #3,300. CFDA now has about 80 affiliated clubs coast to coast and in other countries and we continue to grow.

Now that I have established my record with the shooting sports including the WFDA, it is time to dispute the seemingly endless accusations alleged by Jon Wilson, for I will not allow my reputation and that of the CFDA savaged

any further by false, misleading and outright lies by this individual to go unchallenged.

1. Cowboy Fast Draw Association, LLC is a business, and I'm a long-time businessman. Is there a problem with that in America? After seeing shooting sports and clubs constantly destroy themselves with petty politics in my over 40 years of shooting, I decided to get involved in the business of trying to build a successful shooting sport organization that has the potential to grow way beyond 10,000 members and become totally self-supporting and managed professionally for generations to come. There are many folks that share this dream with me and work unselfishly to promote CFDA nationwide. They are having a lot of fun in the process and we do everything we can to recognize them for their efforts.
2. Things cost money to build, create, manage and make available to not only our members but to the public that would like to get involved in shooting sports. A sport cannot be built without a reliable source for the goods and services it needs, at an affordable price. Therefore, the CFDA Mercantile has been created to provide a "clearing house" for everything needed and wanted by those interested in our sport and some others.
3. Dinah works about 60 hours a week in the office answering the phones, talking to members and processing memberships and orders. She make a modest wage, as does our daughter Erika who does so much for CFDA, including managing our website and is our Editor for the Gunslinger's Gazette. I have never personally drawn a wage as of yet, we have many bills to pay and products to develop. Someday, we hope to build the organization so that it can pay at least a living wage for anyone who works for it, including me. I would love nothing more than to spend my full-time running CFDA, instead of our other business concerns. I'm saying this here just to clear the air, but I really don't see how it is really anyone else's business. However, if we can ever manage to draw a living wage and God forbid make our investment back and then actually earn a profit from the hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and years of efforts we have invested into CFDA, then so be it.
4. The Wilson claim that we had "locked up" contracts with timer companies is a complete fabrication. My former partner in CFDA, Andy Fink with Shoot Magazine, had developed the Precision Timer. That was a really good timer that we sold until they decided to go out

of business and no longer offered them. I had paid one of our members, an electronic genius, an R&D fee to develop what I thought could be a replacement, but the final cost estimates and time lines were not acceptable to meet our goals for bringing them to market. Our CFDA Affiliated Club in North Carolina had bought some timers they liked from a fellow that ends up living just 40 miles from me. So, we got together, compared notes and re-designed the timer completely to meet our needs. The result is the Gunslinger Timer, which in my opinion, is the best Fast Draw timer ever created for Fast Draw, although I haven't seen JJ's Timer, he's very good and I'm sure his timer is good too.

5. Our costs for the Gunslinger Timer is far more than \$57 dollars, especially when you consider that our package includes the Timer, Controller Button, LED Light, Sensor Unit and 50' Cat 5 Target Cable, we sell the entire single lane package for \$339, plus \$18 shipping included. That is where Wilson came up with \$357 and the alleged 400% profit. For comparison, in 2006, 2 complete lanes of Precision Timers, including CFDA targets cost almost \$1,200, plus shipping, sensors and button controllers were sold separately; these timers were sold by Shoot Magazine at the time. Here, 7 years later CFDA now sells 2 complete lanes of Gunslinger Timers, including targets for \$1,009, plus shipping, including sensors and controller buttons. Sure sounds like passing on a good deal to the shooters to me!
6. Jon Wilson claimed that I somehow cheated my former business partner, Shoot Magazine, out of CFDA. I loved Shoot Magazine, it was one of the best western based shooting magazines that ever existed. Andy Fink did a great job with it and promoting it, but when the economy tanked in 2006 and 2007, advertising revenue dried up and the magazine went under. It was a hard pill to swallow for all of its board and investors. I made an offer to buy out their interest and they accepted it, it's just business. I really wish that never had to happen, but it is my job to keep CFDA moving forward.
7. Jon Wilson claims he was cheated out of the 2009 World Championship by CFDA Management, specifically me. While Wilson did indeed shoot a great match in the preliminary rounds leading up to qualifying as the #1 Seed, with no "X's", for the Championship Shootoffs, he suffered a miserable performance in the finals. He missed the target 18 times in the final rounds, yet he claims that he was somehow being cheated because his opponent had taken

- recovery shots. These type of shots are completely legal and are well within CFDA rules, intentions do not enter into the rules. There were over one hundred people watching the finals, including me from the grandstands. The shooting range was staffed by competent officials, including a Timer Operator/Announcer and Range Master. It was an embarrassing display of shooting to witness, but it was even more embarrassing to witness Wilson's actions after he had defeated himself by missing the target so much. Jon Wilson would have only needed to hit 60% of his shots to assure himself of winning the championship, instead he tried to blame others for his failure to hit the target under championship pressure. He actually stormed over to the gun cleaning table and started pounding on it, while screaming profanities within the earshot of everyone, including our youth shooters. Our rules specifically do not allow this type of behavior.
8. The following morning, I received about 10 phone calls complaining about his behavior. Then Jon Wilson himself called and started cussing over the phone about being cheated. When I told him that I would not tolerate him calling our World Champion a cheater, he then launched into a verbal attack on me. I cautioned him one more time, but he persisted. I then verbally suspended him and followed up with a registered letter the following day.
 9. Jon Wilson was first suspended for unsportsmanlike conduct, for not just what happened that day, but for repeated complaints from around the country during the '09 Season. His membership was later revoked for an improper response to the suspension. Even after all of this, he was afforded some steps to regain his membership, which he has publicly thumbed his nose at, and since has made even worse.
 10. Jon Wilson has stated that it is personal between him and me, and that I have taken these actions against him because I am somehow jealous of his super-human shooting abilities and accomplishments. The fact that I have won over 20 Overall World Championships in Fast Draw and other shooting sports needs no further defense. I have chosen to dedicate my time since 2007 to being the head of a shooting sport, not spending the necessary time to truly compete at a championship level. Although I still shoot from time to time and even get lucky once in a while, I actually get a bigger kick out of cheering for shooters than competing against them.

Initial Interactions with Jon Wilson...

I came back to have some fun with the WFDA and shoot with old friends. Gary & Joyce Tryon hosted many championships at their home, I attended the '05 and '06 World Index Championships, and was fortunate to win both of them. That's when I first remember Jon Wilson and was taken aback by witnessing a few of Jon's angry temper tantrums, whenever he had a bad round, which was often during in those years. In 2007, the World Index Championship moved to Sonora, CA and while I was in the dry-firing area preparing to shoot my last event, Wilson came and stood next to me and told me, "I Hate You." When I asked why, he replied, "Because I have to hate you, in order to beat you." I will never forget that statement.

In late 2007, Jon Wilson came to Dayton, NV and wanted to shoot a CFDA event. I told him I needed to speak to him and asked him to step outside of the shooting area. I explained to him that CFDA was a ladies' and gentlemen's sport and by what I had witnessed by his actions in WFDA, Cowboy Fast Draw was not the sport for him. He pleaded with me and said, "I get it, it's about the Cowboy Way, I really want to be involved." He promised me that he would watch his behavior. Against my better judgment, I gave him the benefit of doubt, I hoped that he really did understand. I *later* regretted that decision deeply. Jon was actually a gentleman and displayed good behavior for the rest of that year and most of 2008. Although sometimes his temper would flare when he got an "X" and he would hastily unload and throw his brass hard and over-handed at the brass bucket with noticeable anger, he was warned several times for this by various Line Judges. In 2009, his behavior got progressively worse and finally unbearable at the World Championship. Action was finally required according to CFDA Conduct Rules, all actions are well-documented and completely defensible should they ever have to be defended in a court of law.

I had some hope that Jon Wilson would realize and account for his actions and regain his membership in CFDA someday. That is the reason why the summaries of these actions were handled as an internal issue and correspondence was only circulated to Club Representatives and CFDA U.S. Marshals, who needed to know this information. Due to the attacks of Jon Wilson's slanderous remarks, we now realize that this was an error and that at least the Summaries of Disciplinary Actions should have been posted. CFDA has this right as the administrator of a sporting organization, our members all sign a release before shooting in any event as follows: ***I further agree to follow all rules of CFDA, especially those that involve safety and***

conduct. Our guidelines also state: ***We reserve the Right to Refuse Service to Anyone.*** We have amended our policy and now have an obscure section on our website to post any such future Disciplinary Actions. Jon Wilson is the only such action ever taken by CFDA, but at least now when being further slandered we have a place to refer people to so that they may understand why he is disgruntled.

For those who want to believe in Jon, you should. I understand there is a good side to Jon, I have personally witnessed it. I've seen him go out of his way to help people in many ways. He has the potential to not only become a truly great shooter, but also become a true champion in mind and spirit. That is the reason that so many of us tried in the past to overlook his tendency towards angry behavior. But, also please realize that those who simply choose to overlook the temper tantrums of an angry mind, are also enabling such behavior. There are grave concerns that such actions left unchecked could result in a lot worse things happening in the future than just being banned from a shooting sport.

From a Personal Standpoint...

I have personally prayed that Jon Wilson would seek help with his obvious anger management issue. He has chosen to wage a vulgar and personal campaign of hate, distortion, personal attacks and outright lies against me, anyone who has dared to defend me, or anyone I associate with. Many concerned friends have called wanting to counter his attacks, I've asked them not to, for all it would have accomplished is to bring his attacks upon themselves.

Friends have become concerned for my safety and that of my family, they have given us copies of rants by Jon Wilson he's posted on various Facebook forums. He actually wrote a request for someone to take an AR-15 to Fernley and "shooting a bunch of people", then he posted something about stalking me at the Shot Show. After seeing such statements, my entire family fears for their safety and have requested we boost security around our homes, of which I have obliged. This has become a serious matter!

I will make no further statements or engage in discussions regarding Jon Wilson, other than to direct anyone with a question regarding him to the summary in the Disciplinary Actions section on the CFDA website, where I will also provide a link to a copy of this letter.

Once again, I sincerely apologize for having to post a link to this statement here, on what is meant to be a friendly public forum. But I will post this link wherever necessary to rebut Jon Wilson's delusional rants or is allowed to publicly attack me or the Cowboy Fast Draw Association.

With all Due Respect,

Cal Eilrich, Director of CFDA