

STARTING A CFDA AFFILIATED CLUB

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Howdy,

We would like to welcome you to CFDA as a contact for forming a CFDA "Club in the Works". CFDA Affiliated Clubs are the very foundation that our entire sport and organization is built upon. It usually all starts with one person that has the vision and desire to see a CFDA club formed in their area. You are in for a treat in that you will find other clubs more than helpful in helping you along your journey. If you haven't attended a contest or another club's activity, we suggest that you do this as soon as possible. Call them and let them know you're coming and you will find that they will roll out the Red Carpet for you. The fact is, we have so much fun doing Cowboy Fast Draw that we want to share it with everyone possible; it is almost like joining an extended family. The following should help you get going in the right direction.

Alotta Lead & Quick Cal

IT TAKES SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE FUSE...

You can be that person, the "spark-plug" that drives the engine, the "founder" of a Cowboy Fast Draw Club, but you can't do it alone. You'll need a good core group of people to make it into a real club. There are many advantages to having a Cowboy Fast Draw Club. Just think of all the new friends you are going to make for the rest of your life. So, where do you start?

ADVERTISE THAT A COWBOY FAST DRAW CLUB IS FORMING...

Advertise in local gun shops and newspapers, with posters provided by CFDA, that a Cowboy Fast Draw Club is starting in your area. Make sure your advertising includes the date, time, and place for an organizational meeting. It's also a good idea to let Cowboy Action Shooting clubs in your area know what you're doing. Many CAS shooters are excited to give *Cowboy Fast Draw*© a try since CFDA uses authentic equipment and holsters. *Cowboy Fast Draw*© can make a great "auxiliary activity" for any CAS club, since it's a great inside activity for those long cold winters or blistering hot summers. However, most CFDA Clubs report they have their best recruiting at events such County Fairs and general public gatherings. Since the upfront costs to get into CFDA are smaller than many other shooting sports, we provide a great place for someone new to shooting sports to start to get involved.

CLUB ORGANIZATION IDEAS...

We recommend that you form a non-profit community service organization. All shooting clubs are community service organizations, as they teach people the safe and proper use of firearms. Your club can take many forms, from a non-structured club with no bank accounts to an LLC or non-profit corporation. In many states you can be a non-profit corporation, but with no non-profit IRS status, which simply means you file a tax return and pay any taxes due, which is usually none or minimal as long as you don't build a big treasury. Small clubs generally don't handle enough funds to warrant the Non-Profit IRS Status, but several have gone down this path. The idea here is that *Cowboy Fast Draw*© is supposed to be fun with everyone working together for the mutual benefit of each other. You will need officers of the club, just to make sure that someone is responsible to see that the necessary things are done. Beware of politics beyond the fact that someone needs to do the jobs. Politics has been the undoing of many clubs and organizations that were started with the best intentions. You might consider placing the "Founder" above politics and establishing a permanent un-elected position on the B.O.D. This person should have the authority and ability to settle disputes and bring things back to center, by any means necessary.

FINDING A PLACE TO SHOOT...

Finding the right place to shoot is the most important step in forming a CFDA affiliated club. You can get started in someone's large garage, but you will soon outgrow it. You can start out with an outdoor location if the weather cooperates, but you will probably need an indoor location to keep a regular activity schedule intact. Many people are fortunate to have large indoor areas such as barns, riding arenas, shops, etc. If someone in your club has that kind of location and are willing to let you use it, you hit pay dirt. If not, you and your club will have to find a place in order to have a successful club.

SHOOTING SCHEDULES...

It's best for your club to meet on a regular basis. The Great Basin Gun Hawks of Fernley, NV, for instance, hold free practice each Monday night. They have two matches per month on the 1st Monday Night and the 3rd Saturday. Some clubs meet weekly on weeknights, some monthly on weekends, it's really up to the members. They now coordinate with two other clubs in the area and there is a lot of support between the clubs.

RAISING CLUB START-UP FUNDS...

One of the best systems that we know of to raise the necessary funds to get the club started is instituting a Founding Life Member program. Folks like being in on the ground floor of something exciting, like your club. Offer Founding Life Memberships for \$150 each for a predetermined period (such as 90 days). This will raise funds very quickly so that you may fund the necessary items that you will need. The main expenses are paying the CFDA Affiliation fee (\$250) and acquiring a CFDA timer. Two lanes can accommodate up to about 10 – 12 shooters, anymore than that we recommend 4 lanes. CFDA has a new affordable option for 2, 4 and 6 lanes called the Gunslinger Cowboy Fast Draw Timer. You can raise these funds with as little as 12 members. You should also charge an entry fee to every club contest, have annual & life membership fees to cover monthly expenses such as newsletters, stamps, and such, or you might need to cover rent depending on your location.

CFDA Club Affiliation Fee

The initial CFDA Club Affiliation Fee has been reduced to \$250 the same as renewals, to cut down on the first-year expenses. (For more information contact CFDA @ 775-575-1802). We have also made club items available for purchase on the website, such as banners and extra Gazettes. Since we have reduced the initial fee we no longer provide free Club Banners.

WHY AFFILIATE A CFDA CLUB...

The CFDA Affiliation Fee is \$250 for the first year and \$250 for each year thereafter. This is an excellent value considering NRA insurance is provided by the CFDA. If a club tried to independently acquire such insurance it would cost several hundred dollars per year alone. The club also receives a listing on the CFDA Website, a separate Club Thread on the CFDA Telegraph to enhance communication, plus they may choose a U.S. Marshall to represent them at the annual CFDA Marshal's Muster. The CFDA also provides ongoing support in helping your club grow. This can include press releases, training, and visits by CFDA Staff or Regulators, in addition to access to the CFDA Logo and other promotional materials.

WHY DO CLUB MEMBERS NEED TO JOIN THE NRA?

The National Rifle Association is a big reason we still have the Right to Bear Arms in the U.S.A.. They also make our sport possible by providing the NRA Shooting Club Liability Insurance Program that allows us to insure property owners of the locations we hold our contests. Fifty percent of all members of any CFDA affiliated club must be members of the NRA. Therefore, it is wise for club to require NRA membership of all of their club members. CFDA is an enrolled NRA Recruiter. We have all the forms necessary to join the NRA. Did you know that you can join the NRA for as little as \$10 per year if you decline the *American Rifleman* magazine? You should sign up your whole family at that price!

HOW CAN CFDA HELP?

Contact Alotta Lead at our Main Office (775)575-1802 for a complete CFDA Club Start-up Package. We'll be glad to advise you through the whole process. You can also call Quick Cal's cell phone at (775) 745-9727 for any other help. We at CFDA realize that affiliated clubs are the very foundation of CFDA and will build the future of our sport.

Affiliated Club package Includes

- General Liability Insurance
- Access to add additional insured locations
- 4 - CFDA Gunslinger's Guidelines
- Your First 50 Gunslinger's Gazettes (Additional Gazette can be ordered Online)

- Advertisement and link on CFDA web-site
- CFDA Telegraph thread in the Club Section
- Naming a U.S. Marshal to represent your club (Must be Life Member of CFDA)
- Ability to host CFDA Titled Championship Contests

Note: CFDA memberships, NRA memberships, CFDA score sheets, CFDA Brochures, CFDA general liability release forms and many other documents are available through a free download on www.cowboyfastdraw.com (PDF format). Available soon: Club Banners and CFDA Logo Banners on the CFDA Mercantile.

Observations From Quick Cal, Director of CFDA.... (Excerpt reprinted from a Gazette Article)

We get calls from folks that want to start a club and ask a lot of questions. They sometimes want to talk friends they know into giving it a try with them and try to form a club before the first shots are fired. This tactic almost always ends up in failure.

What has worked time after time is if you're interested in getting a club started is to acquire a CFDA approved timer with 2 lanes and set it up in your garage or any other place else you can find where you can shoot regularly. Put up fliers in local gun shops, western clothing stores, gun ranges and maybe even take out an ad in your local newspaper.

The main thing is to just start shooting regularly and invite people over. Most folks are intimidated when they first hear about CFD and can't imagine themselves doing it. But the magic begins to happen once they strap a holster on and take a few practice draws with a six-gun. When they actually fire a wax bullet and hit the target that's when they smile and believe that they can really do it. If you provide a fun atmosphere, it isn't long before they are ordering their own gun and holster and you've got a new member. Before too long a few people turn into a dozen and after that you will have to expand to 4 lanes as your club grows. Recruiting one key member sometimes pays off and brings in a lot of members. The largest CFDA clubs that now exist, just started with one or two folks with a vision.

One Success Story

Here is just one success story from 2008. Peacemaker CFDA #1022 from Reno, got bit by the CFDA bug in October of '07, because he heard an ad on the radio promoting a small trophy shoot our club was holding at Dayton Valley Days. He came to the shoot to watch and we invited him to our club, where he felt very welcome and got real excited about the sport. Before long he bought his own timer and two targets so he could practice at home and he got really good in short amount of time, he placed in the Top 20 at this year's Beretta's Fastest Gun Alive. Peacemaker is also an avid trap shooter, so one day after a trap shoot he set up his targets and let people try it and they liked it a lot. Then during a larger shoot at the Sage Hill Trap and Sporting Clay Club he set up a Town Folk Alley and had it going all weekend and asked if I could drop by on Sunday and perform a demonstration. The owner of the range let them set up 4 targets in a fairly good sized garage and they are now practicing every Thursday night and have CFDA matches the 1st Sat. and 3rd Thursday night each month. They are now a CFDA Affiliated Club called the Sage Hill Reno Rustlers and their club membership is approaching 40 members. The gun shop at Sage Hill is doing great business selling SAA revolvers and CFDA products. So I might suggest that trap shooting clubs might be a great place to start a CFDA club.