

Karl G Kerster---Statement of Candidate for AFC President:

I grew up in the Environmental movement with my father teaching Environmental Studies from back in the days when we had to explain what that means, and I have been in falconry since 1976 flying all sorts of birds. I am now a bird abatement contractor flying a female Aplomado falcon from 2009 and a small flock of pure peregrines all year round. I am an unabashed gun lover and life member of the NRA. I am also an ardent supporter of the ACLU. My political outlook is based on honesty and freedom. My goal, inside or outside of the AFC is total repeal of all unjustified restriction and regulation of Falconry. Strip away all the falconry regulations and then add back only those provisions that are necessary for public safety. We, as a nation, have no right to promulgate any regulations that are not fully justified. The convenience of game wardens and departments or the desires of existing falconers have no place in the regulatory process. I have come to the conclusion that there are zero justifiable regulations for falconry, as will anyone who addresses the issue logically, without bias. I would like to see the AFC lighten the standards for membership and become a larger organization with a broader reach including membership for people who may not be currently licensed as falconers.

My personal reputation, which I am rather proud of, has been created by me spending much of my time telling the truth to people who don't want to hear it. The fact that I detest hybridization and fail to keep that a secret may also cause a little bit of conflict with a few falconers.

I am not the ideal political operator. A decade ago I was a pain in the arse of the USF\$WS for demanding my rights as a falconer and I was targeted, entrapped, and indicted on a bogus criminal charge. I fought the case, and it was summarily dismissed. It was dismissed because everything I did was entirely legal, but not because I had not done it, which I openly admitted to.

Now, we falconers should be demanding and fighting for full rights and freedoms, and for the freedom of any citizen to enjoy falconry and raptors. Trapping of raptors should be a simple provision within hunting regulations without being bound up in a bogus bundle of violations of citizens' Rights that is called the Falconry Regulations.