

The 2009 Festival of Falconry

A Photo Essay by Mike Dupuy

In 2007 I went to the United Kingdom to attend the first festival of Falconry (see the April 2009 Hawk Chalk). In 2009 the second Festival was held at the same venue in England. This time I took my 13 year old son Marshall. Sandwiching the Festival between the front and back end of the trip exploring London. Marshall enjoyed visiting a McDonald's in the UK, seeing the Henry the VIII exhibit at the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, eating dishes like "Bangers and Mash," collecting currency, and imitating the accents of the Brits. All this made the Festival not just another falconry event

that Dad was dragging him to, but a life experience for both of us. I now cherish this time spent with my son and trust as the years go by the trip will mean more to him. To me it is important to link our families into our larger "falconry family" activities, that is why I strive to bring my wife and children to various field meets, picnic's, and trips like this – I want them to enjoy the adventure with me and learn as I have that falconry is also about relationships with other people who happen to enjoy the company of Birds of Prey as much as they do falconry. The Festival demonstrates the deep roots of Falconry (recent Arab sources cite artifacts dating

back 12,000 years), as well as its broad international practice. Some fifty Nations participated in this Festival, and I hope that my article helped bring the North American attendance up from about ten to more than thirty people from the America's. At the 2009 festival we had a phalanx of American Falconers in the Parade of Nations – and I was proud to sport our country's stars and stripes. If you're looking for an exciting opportunity you should consider budgeting for a trip to Abu-Dhabi where the next Festival will be held in 2011. Here are some photographs from the 2009 Festival of Falconry – Enjoy.



Marshall, and I during the Parade of Nations.

Below: Marshall in London.



HH Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoun gets a briefing from Justin, his advisor.



Dr. Nick Fox taking HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York on a tour of the festival grounds.



Above: Catching up with Famous Falconer, Artist, Author, Roger Upton (right) and his twin brother Peter.



Above: George Bristol and Sean Hayes preparing for the Parade of Nations.

Left: Dinner at the IAF Banquet with Peter Devers, and Paul Beecroft.

Right: Sean Hayes helping with the set-up of the North American tent.

Below: A Table of personal photos submitted by falconers was on display in the North American tent.



Right: Falconer, Juan Rojo, of Mexico visits the North American tent.



Falconry presentation on the Children's Day of the Festival.



This sterling silver mustard-pot was commissioned by George Edward Lodge.



Women making traditional baskets.



Right: Easels were set-up around a Gyr Falcon at the Arab Tent, allowing anyone to try their hand at art.



Right: An extensive selection of Dutch hoods from www.falconiformes.nl

Right: Sparrow Hawk, similar to our small accipiters.



Left: A Verreaux's Eagle at the Arab Tent.



Left: Selection of equipment by I.B.R. (Independent Bird Register).



A beautiful selection of hoods on display at the Arab Tent.